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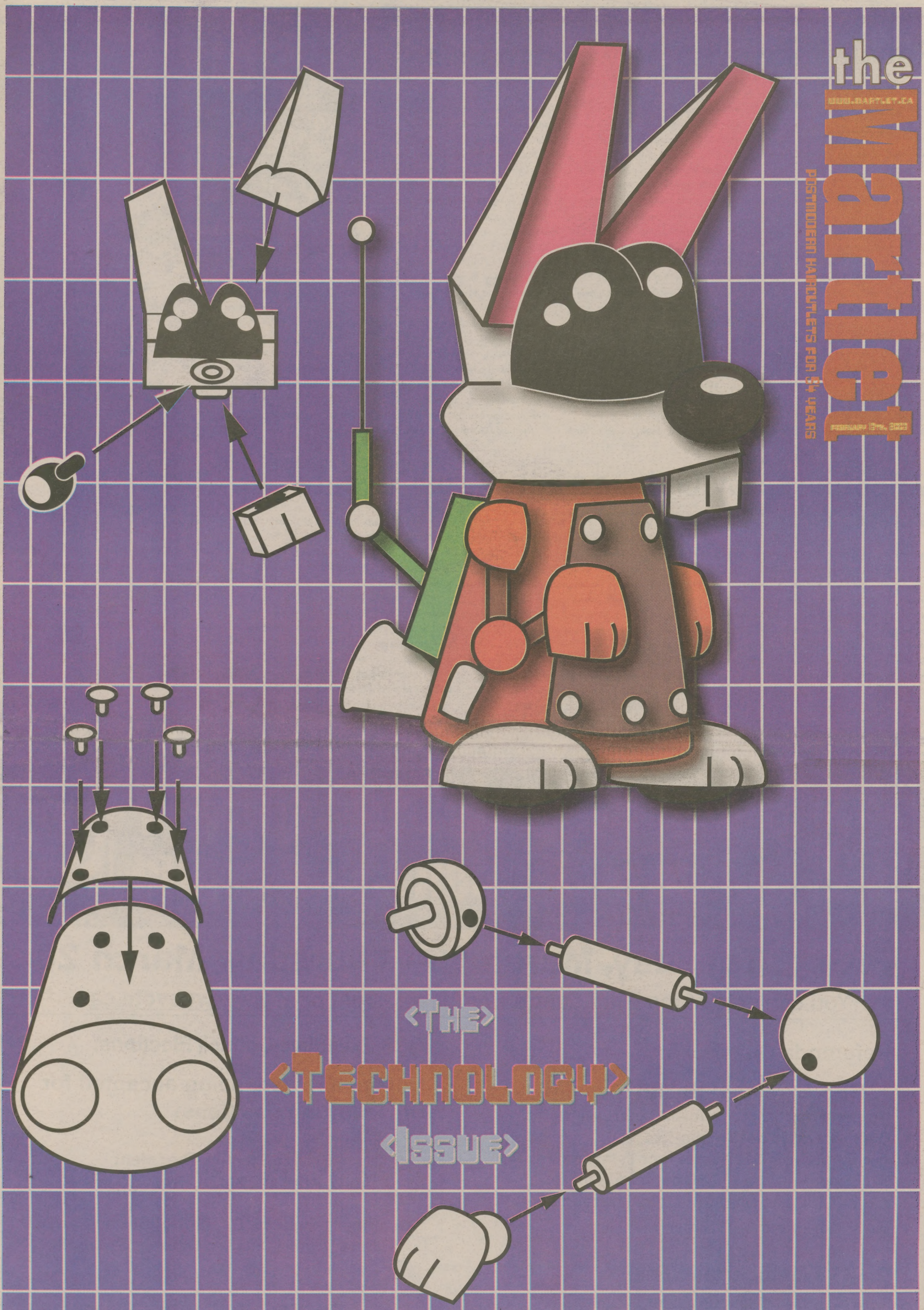

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Robots take over the world (possibly)

by John Thompson

When robots take over the world, a group of engineering students at UVic will be small but vital contributors to our downfall.

This is my suspicion, anyhow, when talking with Dean Steinke. He's one of about 15 student engineers involved in UVic's autonomous underwater vehicle club (AUVic).

"Once you put it in the water, it just goes," Steinke says. "It's completely autonomous."

That's right: underwater robots that require no human supervision.

Last year, the club developed their first fully-automatic submarine, named AntiTitanic.

Steinke joined the club this September, so this first project predates his membership, but he says the robot was basically a two-foot tube of PVC piping that housed the necessary electronics, along with thrusters, pressure sensors and a modified webcam.

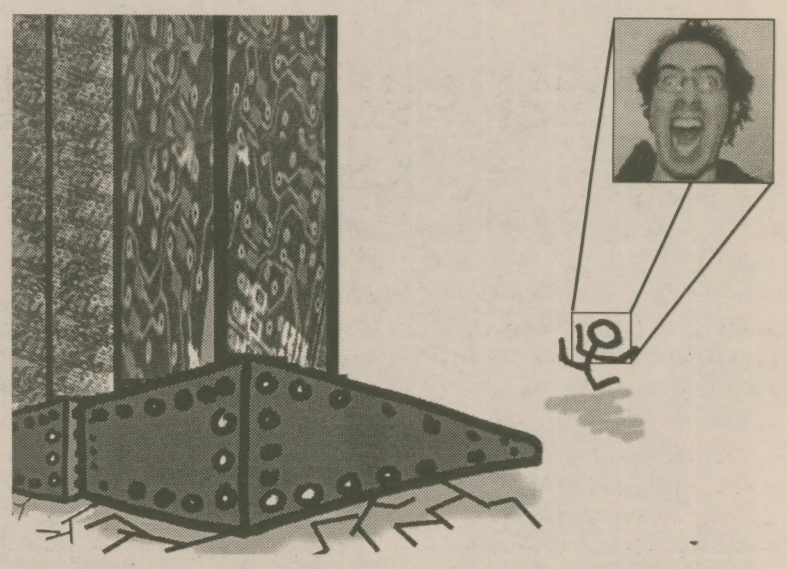
During the summer, AntiTitanic went up against global competition during an international competition in San Diego, held inside a large pool at the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Centre. The goal of the contest was to design a robot that could locate bar-codes on the bottom of a pool, take a picture and then process it with on-board computers.

The UVic team placed 12th out of 15 and won the "Best New Rookie Team" award, despite a disappointing performance.

"Move? It barely did," Steinke says, explaining the robot suffered from several design flaws. In the end, divers had to retrieve it from the pool: So much for being independent of human supervision.

But the club is now busy developing a new and improved robot, named AUViking, and this year they have new crew members on board, including mechanical engineers like Steinke, who will work on tasks such as building thrusters and waterproofing the hull. The design is well underway, and they plan to begin construction in a few weeks.

He says the new robot looks like an upside-down sink: It has a smooth top made from clear plastic with a tube that juts out, housing the propeller that pushes the robot down through the water. Cameras and instruments will protrude from the robot's belly, with thrusters along the sides.



The task AUViking must complete at the competition this year? Locate a target along the pool bottom and drop a weight on it.

Besides gaining valuable experience, Steinke will also garner some academic credits for working on the submarine through a directed reading program. He says he was drawn to the project because of the challenge.

"We have a lot of design courses, but you don't really have much choice in them. This was a chance to be more creative," he says.

Creative, perhaps. But remember: When the machines of the world turn against us, don't seek refuge anywhere near the local swimming pool.

For more information, visit www.engr.uvic.ca/~auv

Valentine's Day billboard antics spur debate

by Holly Pattison

Valerie Williams tugs at Cupid's bow this month with a highway billboard message meant to kickstart discussion about violence against women. The stark words: "Rape. Incest. Racism. Battery. Homophobia. Sexism. Poverty. Shame. Is this Valentine's Day?" in red capital letters are meant to grab the attention of placid Pat Bay Highway drivers on their way to Victoria, says the UVic women's studies student.

Williams says the Valentine's Day billboard is complimentary to other anti-violence against women movements that focus awareness campaigns in mid-February, such as V-Day and the Vagina Monologues, two projects with which Williams volunteers.

"We should talk about all of the words on the billboard, because these are realities for women on a daily basis," says Williams.

UVic's women's studies professor Debby Yaffe says the billboard's culture jamming ad challenges society's "normalization" of expressing love through buying and selling.

"The basic message is that the buying and selling of chocolate and roses should not be allowed to obscure the underlying reality that, overwhelmingly, women are the victims of abuse from their intimate partners," she says.

While the words may act as triggers for survivors of sexual violence, Yaffe says, "We can't stop violence by not talking about it." Yaffe says she thinks billboard activism is a" brilliant idea.. It's a great example of using public space to speak out and deliver a meaningful message."

In December, Williams and her husband posted a billboard that criticized Christmas overspending with the message "Gluttony. Envy. Insincerity. Greed. Enjoy your Christmas." The blunt words got people talking – the message and the messengers received both flack and praise in local and national news media.

The billboard generated so much interest that Williams formed a coalition. Members of the Anti-Violence Against Women Coalition have been asked to donate $1 towards the cost of the $1,400 billboard. Collected by the UVic women's studies department, the excess funds will be donated to a local non-profit women's organization.

Roshni Narain, co-coordinator of the Open UVic Resource Sexual Assault Centre and coalition supporter, says the more awareness messages about violence the better, but she also questions whether many people will "get" the link between some of the words and violence.

"Our conversations don't necessarily link all those words with violence against women," says Narain.

The billboard words will likely make people look, says Narain, but could be criticized for their shock value. "But, so what?" she says. "Sugar-coating messages obviously hasn't worked. Violence continues to occur."

GSS GRADUATE STUDENTS' SOCIETY GSS

Notice of Election & Referenda

Voting: Tuesday, March 18 - Thursday, March 20

You can vote at the Grad Centre from 11am - 3pm or at www.webvote.ca

Referenda Questions:

1. GSS Extended Health Plan

Do you support the following increase to the GSS extended health plan:
A change from $10.17 per month maximum ($122 per year) to $12.50 per month maximum ($150 per year) for a total increase of $2.33 per month or $28 per year.

2. GSS Membership Fee

Do you support an annual inflationary increase (based on the national Consumer Price Index from the previous calendar year) to the GSS base membership fee ($38 per semester). Implementation of the annual inflationary increase would be subject to approval of the budget each year at the annual general meeting of the membership.

GSS Executive Council Elections:

Nominations are being accepted for the following positions:

President, Vice-President
*term April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004

Director of Finance, Director of Student Affairs
*term April 1, 2003 to October 31, 2003

Nominations Open Monday, February 17
Close Monday, March 10 4:00 PM

Nomination packages can be picked up at the GSS general office in the Grad Centre

Shakespeare and Super Mario?

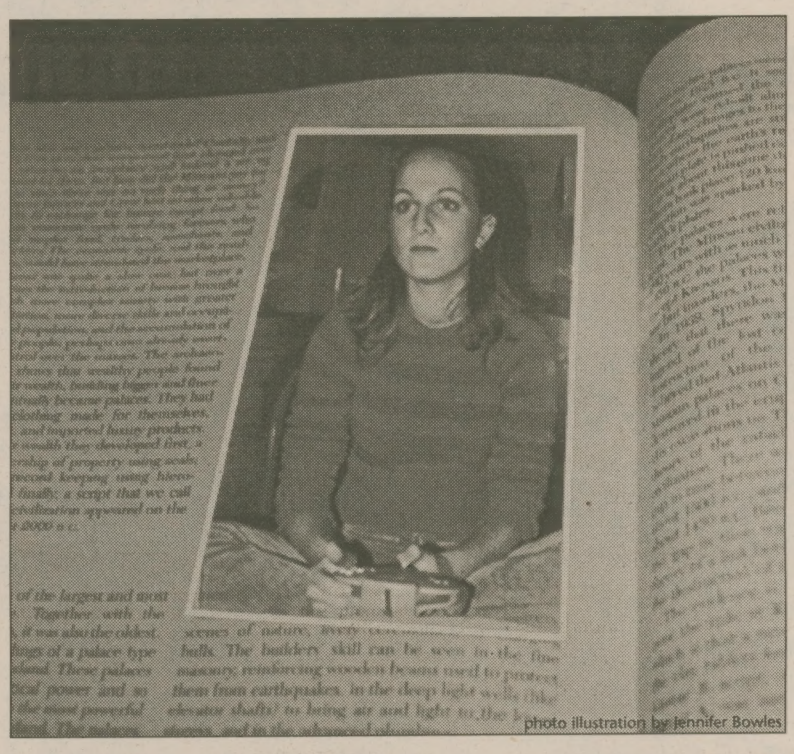


photo illustration by Jennifer Bowles

by Patrick White

The international market for video games now eclipses that of motion pictures, and the interactive Playstations, Nintendos and PCs of the world are favoured territory for an entire generation of youth. Despite their increasing popularity, little academic research has been conducted on the effects of video games on their users, according to three members of the psychology department at UVic.

"There actually is very little in the way of academic research going on, at least with respect to the kinds of games we're dealing with," says Dr. Michael Masson, one member of the three-professor team.

That's one reason Drs. Masson, Christopher Lalonde and Daniel Bub have embarked upon a project studying video games and literacy, funded by the Canadian Language and Literacy Network.

"I think gaming and its influence on child behaviour is a big issue: it's a widespread phenomenon," says Masson. "There was a fair bit of research on the influence of television viewing on children's behaviour. I can imagine the same sort of line of research being played out with video games once people wake up to the idea this is an important thing to do."

The team hopes to test two groups of subjects, aged 12 to 16. One will play a strategy game, like *Age of Mythology*, the other a game that simulates certain physical principles, like *Flight Simulator* or *Grand Tourismo*. After approximately 100 hours of playing, the researchers will see what types of literacy the subjects have picked up from the games.

"What we'll look for is different patterns of skill acquisition, so that when it comes to planning and development of strategy we expect the *Age of Mythology* students to have an advantage there and those that have been working on *Grand Tourismo* maybe will know a little bit more about the laws of physics of motion," said Masson.

All three of the researchers have children of their own and have noticed a few astonishing trends regarding adolescents and video games.

"It's remarkable how much effort kids put into these games," said Lalonde. "It takes a lot of work to get past level five on these things. They will work like dogs to make that happen. So that was an interesting phenomenon. Another is how much effort they put in outside the game. That is, they will buy gaming magazines and read them cover to cover and they try to find cheat codes. It's remarkable that they put that much effort into it (video games), unlike television where they just sit on the couch and it just washes over them like a warm sea."

The researchers say they see a big difference between playing video games and watching television.

"What I have seen in my adolescent who spends time on video games and computer games is that television viewing is very different now," said Masson. "He doesn't do anywhere near as much of it and, what he does do of it, the notion of it passively washing over isn't very satisfying anymore."

"So my sort of wild off-the-cuff prediction would be the television industry is likely going to have to make some moves in the not-too-distant future to accommodate a very different style of viewer."

You can run, but you can't hide: Wireless Internet on campus

by Jen Burden

Rather than e-mailing profs and conducting research while crammed inside computer labs on campus, UVic students may soon be able to take care of business in libraries and lounges. A pilot project testing the effectiveness of a wireless network (Internet technology akin to cellular phones) is well underway at UVic, paving the way for connections all over campus.

Approximately 70 students are participating in the pilot project. Each tester must have their own laptop and perform at least 10 hours of Internet use at five separate sessions. In return for that, each tester gets a network card, which has an approximate retail value of $90 to $130.

Wireless router boxes, located above the study carrels in the library third-floor mezzanine, allow laptop users with a network card to connect to the Internet. The system eliminates any need for cables, allowing students to easily work away from the computer lab.

"Faculty and staff are all very well connected to the network, but students aren't. So we want to extend access to IT services for students, and this project allows us to engage students directly," said Ken Howard, who works at Computing and Systems Services (CASS), dealing with network services and data communications infrastructure.

Stewart Wood, a post-graduate student in the Harvey Southam diploma program, has nearly completed his 10 hours of testing. He was given a card for his Mac in January and though he's had a few problems with the network, Wood said he would like to see wireless points all over campus.

"There's no reason why we can't have them everywhere," said Wood. "Wireless technology really is a sensible investment for the university."

Over the course of his 10 logged hours, Wood has had a few problems with the network; his Powerbook has a titanium shell that sometimes makes it difficult to receive a signal from the wireless point. Wood has wireless at home and said moving the computer will often solve the problem.

However, Wood said he is concerned about the "egalitarianism" of the project. "I have a laptop, but not everyone does," said Wood. "And if you have an older laptop it might not work."

Computer Services will evaluate the project later this month after students return their questionnaires and log sheets on Feb. 15.

"It's too early to draw any conclusions from the investigation phase," said Howard.

Participants have not required much assistance from the UVic Computer Helpdesk, which is a sign that the project is running smoothly, said Howard.

Funded by the vice president academic and provost Jamie Cassels and Cisco Systems, the project cost $60,000-70,000 to implement, said Howard.

Computing Services was hoping to receive assistance on the project from the staff at University of British Columbia (UBC), who already have wireless technology throughout their campus.

"UBC didn't have much time to offer. I was a little disappointed," said Howard.

According to the Wireless LAN project Web site, at the end of this pilot it is likely procedures and standards will be established to allow production systems to be set up. It is also likely that many places on campus will then set up wireless points, as demand and resources warrant.

"We are studying how to do this right institutionally. And among other concerns, we want to make sure that we can protect people's privacy," said Howard.

Though UBC is ahead of UVic with regard to wireless technology, according to Howard, "UVic is still early on the curve."

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For a gas-guzzler free tomorrow: Fuel cells at UVic

photo by Alison McDonald

Dr. Jean Marc Le Canut displays a fuel cell stack, a form of environmentally sustainable energy technology currently under development at UVic.

by Tim Holloway

Fuel cell development continues at UVic, but don't expect pollution-free flying cars and hoverboards on the market anytime soon.

The Institute for Integrated Energy System at the University of Victoria (IESVic) is working with hydrogen and fuel cells to steer the energy system away from fossil fuels.

"Our interest in hydrogen is its potential to be used to make electricity," said Dr. Lawrence Pitt, IESVic's research coordinator. While the cheapest way to get hydrogen is from natural gas right now, in the fuel cell itself, the only emissions are "some heat and water vapor."

James Clark is a member of the development team for UVic's Formula SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) that races an open cockpit car at the Pontiac Silverdome each year. Clark said fuel cell cars are more complex to monitor than normal cars:

"You are keeping track of over 2,000 different sensors, as opposed to about 15."

This is the type of equipment he worked on for Xcellsis, the engine development team at Ballard, a Burnaby company that was once the world leader in fuel cell technologies.

Formula SAE doesn't use hydrogen fuel cells, and neither does any other racing team according to Richard Lewis, leader of FSAE's engine team. "It comes down to one very simple thing," he said. "Power-to-weight ratio."

The fuel tanks are heavy, and fuel cells themselves aren't cheap.

"We're talking $500,000 per fuel cell, and they only generate about 200hp each right now," said Clark.

But creating a lighter fuel tank and making the technology cheaper could mean an emission-free source of renewable energy.

"You convert the sun's energy into electricity, either through wind, solar, etc., the electricity electrolyses the water into hydrogen, and you store the hydrogen until the demand for electricity rises," said Andrew MacDonald, secretary of Carbon-Free Campuses.

Fuel cells have other advantages besides fuel efficiency. By themselves, they take up little space. Electric cars don't require transmissions and run silently.

And of course, electricity from a fuel cell can be used for anything. Although automobile use is a huge contributor to pollution, Dr. Pitt pointed out that the Internet and cell phones take up significant amounts of energy, too.

Gas-electric hybrids have been introduced in the past three years by Honda and Toyota to reduce emissions.

"The gasoline engine is as efficient as it's going to get," said Keven Sammons of Honda City in Victoria, a dealership that has sold more hybrids than any other dealership in western Canada including Richmond, the largest Honda dealership in Canada.

The Honda's Insight and Civic hybrid model and Toyota's Prius don't require charging because of a self-regenerating system that recharges the batteries during deceleration or while going down hills.

Gas-electric hybrids have helped close the gap between internal combustion engines and hydrogen fuel cells, because the technologies used for electric motors in cars are the same used for hydrogen fuel cells – the source of the electricity comes from a cell, though, instead of a battery.

Ballard has worked on fuel cell prototypes with several companies, including Ford, which created a Focus in 2002 that uses hybrid electric hydrogen fuel cell technologies together.

But as Lewis said, it will take a "considerable amount of time" for fuel cells to meet the needs of cars, big trucks, race cars, airplanes, boats, and so on.

"In the future, electrics will likely show up in racing, because they have a lot of inherent advantages," said Clark, "but they're not all there... yet."

How a fuel cell works

Hydrogen fuel cells generate electricity without pollution and run as long as they are supplied hydrogen and oxygen. Well, oxygen is easy enough to find: we breathe it in the air every day. Hydrogen has several sources, too, the most obvious being water, which can be separated into hydrogen and oxygen through electrolysis.

A fuel cell works by running hydrogen and oxygen in a zig-zag pattern against opposites sides of a plate that looks and feels like ordinary plastic, but is coated in platinum to break the nucleus of hydrogen from its electrons. Those electrons power the electric circuit while the hydrogen passes through the plate to combine with oxygen, forming water.

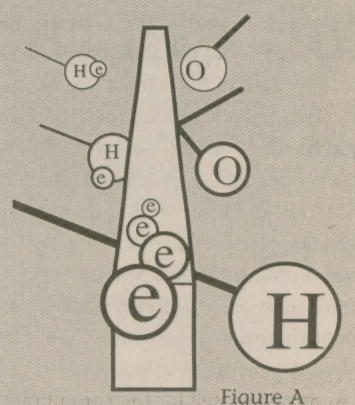

Figure A

Top ten suggestions for maintaining quorum

We're sorry folks, but cookies just don't cut it anymore. Because the Students' Society annual general meetings have a tradition of weak turnouts, the Martlet *thought we'd put our heads together and help out with a few suggestions to get and keep voting members.*

10. Bring in a mechanical bull.
9. Host an Ingmar Lee-Dallas Henault steel-cage death match.
8. Fax out a phony press release stating a Walmart will be built in Mystic Vale, then stage a protest in Cinecenta.
7. Change the name from "AGM" to "Kummoniwannalaya, Part 3."
6. David Tillson's "How to Win Friends and Influence People" workshop.
5. Free wireless Internet for everyone who attends the meeting. (We stole that one from former mayoral candidate Ben Isitt.)
4. Free child care for every board member who attends. (We stole that one from UVSS Chair Michelle Kinney.)
~~3. Five-hour David Turpin Power Point presentation, "A Vision for the Future, the Director's Cut."~~
3. "No shoes, no pants, no problem!" policy.
2. Make a motion to change the name of the SUB to "Phat City." Booya!
1. Two words: Meat draw.

Based on research by the Vancouver Island Leg Extension Procedure Interest Group (VILEPIG).

No quorum – *again* – at UVSS AGM

Cookie shortage curbs progress

by Patrick White

Quorum was almost reached for the first time in three years at the Feb. 7 UVic Students' Society's (UVSS) semi-annual general meeting. One hundred people passed through the doors of Cinecenta, but the free cookies and coffee weren't enough to keep students interested. By the time quorum was called, barely half that number remained.

Quorum is the number of society members required to pass special resolutions at AGMs. UVSS general meetings require 90 students for quorum to be reached.

Students' society chair Michelle Kinney said quorum was last reached three years ago during the AGM at which the controversial Youth Protecting Youth group was stripped of club status. That meeting saw around three hundred students show up.

Not having quorum limits the ability of the UVSS to pass special resolutions.

"We can't vote on any of the main motions," said Kinney. "This time the nursing students union wanted to have a professional development union. That couldn't happen. There was also a motion that would change the status of what a student is, so executives with the UVSS don't have to take a class while they're in term to maintain their student status. Bylaw things and policy things cannot be passed."

In the past, it has taken an extremely controversial issue to pique enough student interest to meet quorum.

"I think we can expect that the next time there is something really controversial on the agenda there will be quorum," said Kinney.

"Until then, I think it's a challenge."

In the future, there may be some more concerted attempts to achieve quorum so that special resolutions can be passed.

"Something that has been talked about is that we should keep track of when quorum hits, make an amendment to the agenda, deal with the main motions, and then go back to the agenda – or something like that," said Kinney.

"I think that options like that will be looked at for next time to avoid this same situation."

Upon leaving the meeting, some students suggested the UVSS could either look at new agenda options or explore the only sure way of interesting students – supplying free beer.

[*Editor's note: While the UVSS hasn't made quorum for an AGM in the past three years, each of the three referendums over the same period has been well attended.*]

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How to become a Top-Secret Super-Duper Spy

Martlet reporter keeps an eye on Canada's intelligence agency

by Briony Smith

1) You must be a university graduate. Since we're all on the road to higher education, you're well on your way to becoming a Top-Secret Super-Duper Spy!

Ron Perkio, human resources chief for the B.C. Region of CSIS and professional Magnum PI 'stache-rocker, said that CSIS visits universities because one of their basic requirements is a university degree. "Many students who are getting close to completing their degree aren't aware that they have the qualifications for the service."

2) First, make sure that you have a driver's license. This is so you can drive all those cool cars that are doled out to superspies, like in the Bond movies. Unfortunately, this is Canada, so in place of a super-slick spy vehicle, brace yourself for something along the lines of a used Civic and a small gas allowance.

3) Are you a Canadian citizen? Good. Being deported does not rank high on the Suave-o-Meter. Besides, if you are an émigré, you could be classified with the émigré groups that, according to Perkio (who obviously knows an amusing undercover name when he sees it), are targets for terrorist groups and foreign governments. Perkio said, "There are more terrorist groups in Canada than anywhere in the world, other than the U.S.A. Certain émigrés plan terrorist action and set up charities as front-groups to obtain illegal funds." Wouldn't want to be lumped in with that lot.

4) Brace yourself for the commitment of enduring a hiring process that is, according to CSIS' Web site, "rigorous, competitive, and lengthy." The process of applying to become an intelligence officer can take eight months to a year, due to a multi-level process of interviews, examinations, and security checks. Perkio said that the process is long and complicated because CSIS has to "ensure that the applicant has [nothing] in their background that could result in them being blackmailed or coerced. We also look at issues of loyalty and reliability."

5) After ensuring that you are a Canadian citizen and in possession of both a driver's license and a university degree, you send in a cover letter and resume to the nearest CSIS office which, in the case of an applicant residing in Victoria, means sliding that manila envelope over to Burnaby.

6) You would then be selected for a suitability interview. This does not have anything to do with how slick you will look in a navy double-breaster. This is to weed out the clearly undesirable candidates. These interviews are restricted to applicants from B.C. As Perkio said, the process is competitive: only 50 per cent of applicants are invited to move on to the next stage.

7) The next stage eliminates the nutballs from the game. All applicants have to undergo psychological testing, in the form of standard North American Inventories of Craziness. You also will have to take a polygraph test.

Perkio said that CSIS employees are required to undergo a polygraph test once every five years. So you can forget about smoking that celebratory joint if you land the gig, because five years down the road, you'll regret indulging in your cheeba-love when the needle goes wild and your sorry ass gets canned.

8) Next, you better have a second language (i.e.: French), as this is a "bilingual position," according to Perkio. Applicants have to undergo language aptitude testing. If you're fluent in French, you're laughin', but if you are not and are too thick to be able to scrape up an understanding of the language ASAP, you are dropped from consideration.

9) You will then face a firing squad called the National Assessment Panel. This is where "the bar goes up," said Perkio. If you do not please the powers that be, you are given the boot. Your not-cool-enough-fo'-spy-school 'tude means that you are among the 50 per cent of candidates that have clawed their way thus far only to be given the shaft.

10) This is the part that is like something out of Top Secret! CSIS employees will now follow your family and friends around to determine whether you are actually a cleverly-disguised Russian terrorist. The security screening process entails intelligence officers talking to people like your neighbours and your many references.

11) If CSIS digs up any dirt on you, you get to have a little "chat" with a CSIS official. They will hardcore grill you about anything that they might have turned up in their wee inventory of your entire existence, such as excessive debt, drug use, or a criminal record.

12) If what you refer to as the "Visa debacle" or your fondness for freebasing coke while looking at porn on the Internet doesn't come to light, you will make it to the final stage. You will be granted an interview with the executive director of the region. If he or she deems you suitable, you are now officially a spy! In accordance with the CSIS mandate, you are now responsible for investigating, analysing, and advising the government on activities that pose threats to the security of Canada, such as cool-sounding stuff like espionage and sabotage.

Since we're in Canada, you will be bestowed the noble – and therefore boring – title of Intelligence Officer. But you can call yourself a Super-Duper Top-Secret Spy... once you're packin' the requisite 'stache.

photo illusration by Jocelyn Beyak

Briony Smith gets catty with CSIS on campus.

Out-takes:

The UVic writing student union recently held a contest to re-name their publication, formerly known as the *Inner Harbour Review*. Their new name is *This Side of West*, but here are a few out-takes culled from a poster inside the Fine Art's Building:

- The Falopean Tube Sock
- The Waxen Pith
- Cörndög
- The Colostomy Baguette
- The Amazing Adventures and Exploits of Captain Reginald von Aarkwangler
- That's What She Said
- Pasquoli's Adventure Theme Park and Taxidermy, Quarterly edition
- Napkin (Naps and their Brethren)
- The New Yorker
- I Can't Read
- Tall Bald Aunt
- Skyscrapers to Nothing
- FQFQFQ
- Bad Busker Antidote
- "Randell"
- The place where you go if you want to say, "trippy"
- Outer Harbour Review, or "Inner Barber Review"
- The Ring Road Rant
- Pissbucket

Compiled by John Thompson

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Student groups squabble over protest tactics

by Kevin Groves

VANCOUVER (CUP) – Despite hemorrhaging membership and a growing debate over their federal relevancy, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) did not join the B.C. day of action sponsored by the rival Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) this week.

Instead, the typically conservative federal lobby group, which represents 21 student unions from Vancouver to Halifax, is conducting a letter-writing campaign to federal MPs, asking them to endorse a motion set to be brought to the federal House of Commons on Feb. 25.

That motion, put forward by John Herron, a Tory MP from Fundy-Royal in New Brunswick, would call on the federal Liberal government to eliminate a clause in the Canada Student Loan Act requiring government officials to consider parental income when determining if a Canadian student is entitled to a student loan.

"Right now when you apply for a loan [the government] looks at your parents' income and they figure that if your parents make enough money and are in a certain bracket, then they should contribute to your education," said Erin Stevenson, a spokeswoman for CASA. "But what happens is a lot of these parents don't want to give their kids money...and if they don't help you then there is no [current] appeal mechanism to the CSL to get money."

Stevenson was also quick to criticize the CFS approach toward getting the Canadian post-secondary education debate into the public eye, an approach that will show itself in Victoria on Feb. 11, when students and seniors participate in a CFS-sponsored rally at the B.C. legislature.

"Protesting at legislatures and sending postcards to the federal government now is absolutely useless because the [federal] budget's already been set and is being presented to the House on Feb. 25," Stevenson said.

"You have to be lobbying these people six or seven months in advance with your cause...otherwise you're wasting people's time and getting people's hopes up for absolutely nothing."

But not everyone in CASA's membership believes taking up the pen, rather than the megaphone, is the best way to be heard by Canada's decision makers.

That's the feeling at Okanagan University-College (OUC) in the B.C. interior. Currently a trial member with CASA, OUC's student union recently endorsed a resolution to become a full member of the CFS, while maintaining a trial membership with CASA.

Part of the reason for that decision involves student dissatisfaction with CASA's ineffectiveness in preventing a 65 per cent tuition increase at the university-college last year, after B.C.'s six-year tuition fee freeze was lifted, said OUC student union president Aaron Ekman.

"We just got nailed with tuition hikes last year," Ekman said. "I think we now have the second highest [tuition] in the province after UBC...some of our science students are paying double what they paid last year. It's just ridiculous."

photo by Erik Haensel

Smoke from the legislature cannons drifts throughout the crowd of seniors and students. The protest, timed to greet the opening of legislature, saw 3000 people flood the lawn on Tuesday, Feb. 11.

To address those concerns, Ekman said he has been in touch with other student unions across B.C., looking at the best way to network.

"Once we started doing that it was quite clear that in B.C. the majority of student unions are [CFS]," Ekman said.

And judging from the tuition increases at Malaspina University-College on Vancouver Island, a CFS-affiliated institution of similar size and caliber to OUC, membership in the CFS has its advantages, said Ekman.

"[Malaspina's] hikes were not in the same percentile," Ekman said. "So a lot of students have caught on to the idea that there is strength in numbers and if you're involved with other students in the province then you get access to the research you need to make effective arguments against tuition hikes."

There are other reasons why OUC's student association considers the CFS to be better equipped to meet their needs, Ekman adds.

One such reason involves a CASA bylaw where a trial member of the organization is required to pay a percentage of the CASA membership fee, which the student union never has an opportunity to put to a vote by the student membership, Ekman alleges.

"But when you go to the lobbies and you go to the meetings you don't have a voice at the CASA table because you're not a full member," he adds. "So you're not really treated like a member of the organization."

Meanwhile, Ekman said the OUC student union, which has opened ties with the CFS this year, has so far had all the rights and responsibilities of being a full member of the left-leaning student pressure group, but hasn't paid a cent yet.

"So it's been a better experience for our needs," Ekman said.

Another concern with CASA Ekman alluded to involves the organization's travel pool.

"Many of CASA's federal lobby meetings happen in Ottawa and there's no travel pool," Ekman said. "So out here on the West Coast we have to pay a hell of a lot more to get to Ottawa then say Dalhousie University [in Halifax] does."

photo by Suzanne Beaubien

The women's studies outreach committee is raising funds for the Victoria Coalition Against War and Sanctions in Iraq by selling Valentine's Day Cards in front of Petch Fountain Feb. 12 to 14. The fundraiser is timed to coincide with the UN desicion on Feb. 15 whether to support the U.S. in a war against Iraq. "What is the Valentine that George Bush will send Iraq?" asked Chelsea Peddle, one of the project's coordinators.

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Slow down, speed demons:

Ring Road ain't a race track, says Campus Security

by Katrina Sark

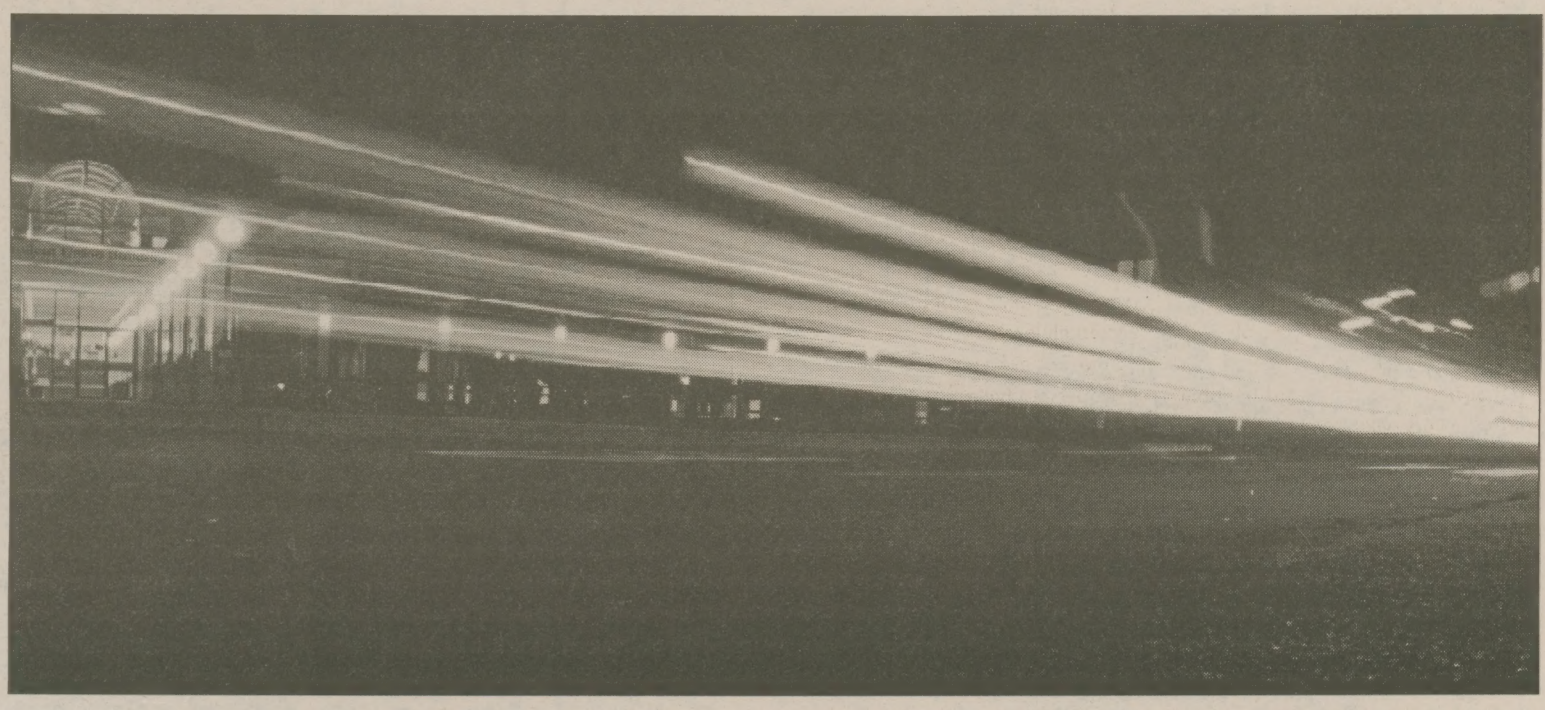

photo by Jocelyn Beyak

The fast and the furious: Campus Security say they are on the lookout for Ring Road speeders.

Campus Security say they are concerned about speeding around Ring Road after receiving numerous complaints from both staff and students.

"Ring Road's design looks like a race track," explains Gordon Dash from Campus Security. "There is a natural tendency to go for it."

The speed limit around Ring Road used to be 50 km/h, but was reduced to 40km/h. However, the average driving speed, according to Campus Security, is between 65-70km/h. People have been clocked driving as high as 120km/h.

"The complaints are worse around the SUB, especially during the hours between 11:30a.m. and 1:30 p.m., when parking lot one empties out and people are trying to get off campus," Dash says. "So far, we've been lucky; we have only witnessed near-misses, but for every one complaint there are 10 incidents."

According to Dash, a car will skid 9.7 metres before coming to a complete stop if its speed is 40km/h. If the driver is going 60km/h, which security says is the average speed of most drivers around Ring Road, the car will skid 22 metres before stopping. If going 80km/h, the car will stop after 38 metres. These numbers are for dry weather conditions only.

"This problem is of great concern to us, because of the design of the Ring Road, which cannot be changed," Dash explains. "The crosswalks on Ring Road are the most densely packed of any place in Victoria. Buses are often late because of the dense pedestrian traffic. It can often take up to 20 minutes to get from lot one to the bookstore. After waiting for that long at the crosswalks, drivers can reach the point where they just want to get off campus as soon as possible and want to beat the pedestrian to the next crosswalk. This is where it gets dangerous."

The fines for speeding on Ring Road, which can be regarded as criminal negligence or wonton carelessness, range from $500 to a mandatory court appearance and a fine decided by the judge.

Campaign Bloopers

• In 1997, Rob Fleming is disqualified from student elections for impersonating the chief electoral officer in a phone call to university housing staff, advising them to take down his competitors' posters. After two appeals, he is let back in. Fleming is currently a Victoria city councillor.

• In 1999, candidate James Rowe promises he will "wear the same sweater every day all year, to increase my visibility and accessibility on campus." He comes in last place and burns his sweater in front of Petch fountain one week later.

• In 2001, Chuck Wooten loses his campaign privileges for a giant "Vote Chuck" banner strung from a campus flagpole. He denies any wrongdoing.

• In 2002, Wooten is back on the campaign trail with promises like turning Ring Road into a giant go-kart course. He is soon prohibited from campaigning again, after mounting an enormous "Vote Chuck for Coke Club President" banner between two trees on Ring Road. He reportedly breaks violations eight times over the campaign period. Though he appeals the decision to revoke his privileges, he is shut down.

• Posters over urinals create a splash in 2002. Candidate Geordie Clarke says "he couldn't go" when facing his female rival's mugs in the men's bathroom.

Compiled by Suzanne Beaubien and John Thompson

Warning: Student elections ahead

by Jessica Verhagen

Campaigning for this year's UVic Students' Society (UVSS) board elections kicks off after reading break, and chief electoral officer Omid Fotuhi said he's well prepared to oversee this year's campaign period.

With an extensive background in student delegating, Fotuhi is involved in many UVSS activities, such as the Access Summit held in Vancouver in January.

Through his position as president of the math and statistics course union and the Vic-U Club, which hosted the recent date auction on campus, Fotuhi said he has honed his organizational skills, which he says will be an asset as the job gets increasingly hectic.

"Right now there's not much happening, but by the end of the week, this (the elections office) will be packed," Fotuhi said.

Fotuhi recommends that potential candidates make themselves "very aware of the electoral policies, deadlines, and the rules and regulations." All this information is available at the elections office in the SUB basement, B024.

Furthermore, he warns against being too "daring" in pushing the established boundaries, as he will "not be lenient towards it this year."

In the past, the most common breaches of regulations included campaigning early, exceeding the specified number of campaign posters and campaigning outside the university premises. Last year, some people tried campaigning in on-campus student residences, which is not tolerated. Rule breakers risk being omitted from the ballot.

Though Fotuhi's responsibilities include enforcing the rules and regulations, he doesn't expect to have to actively monitor candidates.

Because so many people are running, "those not running with you are running against you," he said. To slim down their competition, candidates frequently report their opponents' breaches.

Fotuhi said he hopes to see candidates who are an "ideal representation of the student body." To him, this means respecting both like-minded individuals as well as those of differing views. A successful campaign would "not offend anyone," said Fotuhi.

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Editorial

Science friction

In case you hadn't yet noticed, in case you are just so hooked on *the Martlet*'s high-grade editorials that this is the first thing you read each week, this issue is devoted to technology. The Technology Issue, we call it.

It might seem like an odd choice, given that *the Martlet* has tended to overlook such matters in the past. As one engineering student noted, when asked for input, "*The Martlet* doesn't ususally cover that sort of thing."

True.

So why are we doing it now?

Well, the short answer is, *Martlet* special issue topics are voted on by our staff. The staff spoke, and they said, "Technology." We don't even have a Queer Issue this year, yet we have a Technology Issue. Sweet mother! It's a world gone mad!

Where was I?

Ah, yes, why are we doing this? Well, the fact is, as important as the usual *Martlet* fodder (protests, trees, tuition fees, etc.) is, it doesn't represent everyone on campus. We try, we really do, but it's not always easy.

So we're trying to redress the balance and give some ink to the great stuff that's happening in UVic's science and engineering departments.

There is, and has been for some time now, a division between the arts and sciences. It wasn't always this way: When those old Greeks Aristotle and Plato were kicking around in their sandals, there was one subject everything else sprang from - Philosophy.

We've come a long way since then, with technological advances like shoes that cover our toes, flush toilets and cell-phones with multiple rings.

But at some point during the pursuit of scientific knowledge we lost something. People today often feel alienated by modern life – despite our luxuries – rather than liberated. Hence the Henry Thoreoux reflex to run for the hills.

There's a perceived divide between arts and sciences students at UVic, but are we really so different?

The *Martlet* office tends to be largely populated by arts students, but we're just as obsessed with and reliant upon technology as anyone else.

We complain about our slow Internet connection; we jockey for the fastest computers. We need our 10 Macs, Quark XPress, Photoshop, Word, etc. to get this bastard of a paper out each week. Then we go home and spend countless hours checking e-mail and downloading mp3s and Divx copies of *The Two Towers*. But, as arts students, we tend to be blind to technology issues.

There doesn't have to be a division – perceived or real – between arts and sciences, on campus or anywhere else.

Students, and the university as a whole, can only benefit from more arts/science interaction, Greek-style.

We've all had a blast getting our Technology Issue together, so hopefully *the Martlet*'s newfound techno-lust will endure and help shape a paper that reflects these parts of the UVic scene.

So sit back and watch in awe as *the Martlet* gets blinded by science and hit with technology.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings (each Friday at 11:30 am, in SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

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DIL-STUDENT
DIL-STUDENT! I HAVE TO TYPE UP AN ESSAY IN 20 MINUTES! AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT A COMPUTER IS!
OK, I'LL DO IT BUT I JUST HAVE ONE QUESTION.
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WHAT'S AN ESSAY?

Student voice

Mad scientist demonstrates Chaos Theory

by Andrew MacRae

Anyone who's watched *Jurassic Park* knows how a butterfly fluttering its wings in Tokyo can cause rain in New York's central park.

But what exactly was Jeff Goldblum talking about when he was trying to pick up that girl inside the dinosaur theme park, and how does it apply to our everyday lives?

Movies like *Sliding Doors* also show how mundane decisions and events can drastically alter our future position in life.

This particular type of unpredictability lies at the heart of what is known as Chaos Theory.

It sounds like a paradox.

Theory: a system of beliefs to explain our observations.

Chaos: an inherent unpredictability; an apparent randomness which cannot be described quantitatively.

How do both exist inside that strict world of determinism named science?

An interesting example may help.

Come, let's don white lab coats, safety goggles and wildly spike our hair. It's time for some mad science.

OBJECTIVE:

To demonstrate that systems as simple as a pendulum are capable of exhibit chaotic behavior.

APPARATUS:

Two chopsticks, putty or play-dough, thread, three ceramic magnets.

PROCEDURE:

The simple pendulum has represented the epitome of regularity and predictability for hundreds of years.

Tape the chopsticks into the shape of an 'L' and stick one end into the clay. You now have something that resembles the picture at the start of a hangman game.

Next, tape the string to one of the magnets, and tie the other end to the end of your chopstick so that there is just enough room for it to swing without hitting the bottom.

You're almost done.

This pendulum is about as simple as it gets.

Play with it, let it swing, admire its constant smooth motion - we are going to change this.

Now, tape two magnets at equal spacing beneath the pendulum's line of motion. Let the pendulum swing once more. Chaos ensues, literally.

DISCUSSION:

You see, normally a pendulum is under only one force: gravity.

However, when the extra magnetic force is added to the recipe, the bob of the pendulum enters an extremely intricate and complicated dance.

Suddenly, the poor pendulum finds itself the middleman of a heated debate between the magnet and the Earth's gravity, trying in vain to find a peaceful equilibrium between the two.

As if mimicking the strange creatures who are experimenting on it, it decides that this would be too easy and engages itself in seemingly meaningless complication.

This is where chaos comes in to play. If we pull the pendulum back 2cm, you'd be safe to assume that once we let go, the pendulum will start swinging back in the opposite direction – but then what? Where would it be after five oscillations?

The motion is so delicate that the pendulum will be in a completely different place than if you started even a fraction of a centimeter away.

If we want to accurately estimate where the pendulum will be for at least two swings, we need to measure it to an accuracy of 1cm.

Four swings? To the width of a bacterium.

Ten swings? Less than the width of an atom.

So after only a few swings, any bets on where the pendulum might be are off. Even the slightest deviation in initial position will lead to completely different motion, and there is a physical limitation on just how accurate a measurement can be made.

CONCLUSION:

What does this all mean?

Even the simplest system is capable of bewildering complexity. If such an ideal system is capable of such complexity, where else do we find chaos?

Okay, you may now comb your hair back to whatever you deem normal, remove your white lab coat and safety goggles, as we draw conclusions from our experiment.

One example of true chaos is embedded in our daily lives: its unpredictability is accepted as part of the package, yet we obey the predictions of supercomputers without question.

I am referring to the weather. Warmer currents combine with cooler ones, pushed together by the Earth's rotation to create tides of turbulence – the atmosphere provides a model as complex as any other.

From the example of the pendulum, you dig that chaos is about the immensely different paths a system can take, depending on the slightest deviation of initial conditions.

This is what makes the poor meteorologist's job so hard.

It also leads to questions about the effects of humankind on its environment: it is entirely possible that the effects of fossil fuel emission are not correlated with the rise in climate temperature, that it is simply a brief wave in the complex ocean of our atmosphere.

On the other hand, chaos theory serves to demonstrate how delicate the balance of our climate really is – how even a small change in our atmosphere or ecosystem can result in unpredictably drastic changes.

It's true, we cannot confidently state that fossil-fuel emissions directly cause global warming, but can we state with any confidence that they do not?

As stated above, anyone who's watched *Jurassic Park* knows how a butterfly fluttering its wings in Tokyo can cause rain in New York's central park.

Before this article grinds to an end, one more point needs to be addressed.

Chaos, in the "Chaos Theory" sense of the word, does not just mean that everything is a garbled mess. In fact, the opposite is true. Chaos is a type of supremely complicated order.

Chaos is beautiful, full of patterns and complex structure ...

Seriously, I'm not just saying this because I am a geek. If you don't believe me, see for yourself, by looking up fractal art, or the Mandelbrot set next time you find yourself wandering aimlessly through the Internet. You will find infinitely intricate designs, full of structure and self repetition.

You will find dazzling colors, humbled only by nature itself.

Chaos, as a theory, is everywhere: in the clouds, in the formation of galaxies, in video games as the formation of mountain-like terrain, in our own cells, and of course let us not forget, in the attempts of humble scientists at Jurassic Park who wish to impress the visiting paleontologists.

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Student voice

What's appropriate? Bringing technology to the developing world

by Tom Owen

Technology is great. I'm sure everyone reading this loves their laptop, cell phone, palm pilot or whatever trinket of technology they hold onto. We have gained so much from technology in the last century. Technology has brought us safe drinking water, effective transportation and, more recently, communications technology that couldn't have been imagined 10 or 20 years ago.

This is all great, but what does it really do for you? If Internet file-sharing or Microsoft Messenger disappeared from the face of the earth, would you die? You might feel like it for about a day or so, but I'm sure most of us would get over it.

Is most of the stuff that technology brings really necessary? We have so much technology around us, but what does it really contribute to our lives?

What strikes me is the imbalance between the amount of technology that goes to provide basic necessities to those in developing countries and the amount we use to fulfill our wants. People in many countries have little access to clean water or electricity and often live with the staggering problems of famine and AIDS. We know that technology can play a role in alleviating some of these problems. The basic fact is that people born in the developing world often have little opportunity to better themselves. Poverty itself is dehumanizing; the inability to improve one's social status even more so.

We have a responsibility to work with communities in the developing world to enable people to make meaningful changes in their lives.

"Appropriate technology" is the catch phrase for adapting technology to enable people in the developing world to improve their lives. Appropriate technology is really less about technology and more about the context in which technology is used. It doesn't matter whether the technology comes from the developing world or within the community being affected as long as the community buys into the technology and the technology is sustainable at the community level.

Simple technologies are often the best solution

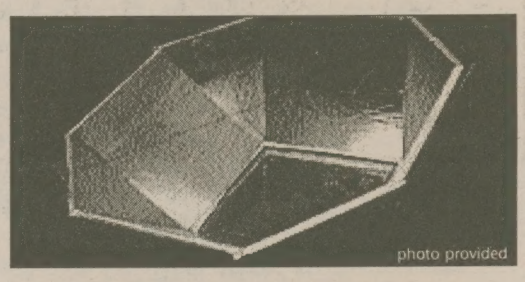
photo provided

to common problems plaguing the developing world. A great example of this is the Pot in a Pot cooling system, developed by Nigerian teacher Mohammed Bah Abba. In many parts of the world fresh food will often go bad before it can be sold or eaten. Food is either in excess or lacking, and even excess food doesn't help the farmer in any way as they are either forced to sell it quickly at a low profit or let it go bad.

In northern Nigeria, a Pot in the Pot cooling system has been introduced to help maintain the freshness of fruits and vegetables. This system has drastically improved the shelf life of fruits and vegetables, allowing farmers to meet demand rather than flood the market. These people weren't given a handout or gift, just the ability to control their economic situation in a way they previously didn't have.

It's often surprising how some more advanced technologies can make a difference. Cell phones are a great example of this. In many developing countries communication has been limited by the fact the governments just don't have the capital to put in telephone lines. Many areas have opted to introduce cell phones instead. We're not talking about every child in a remote Nepalese village having a cell phone.

Often one family in a village will have a cell phone, which they will rent out, providing them with a income and allowing others to communicate with those outside the village. Imagine the difference in someone's life if they only have to pick up a phone rather than make a three-day trek to check on a family member who has fallen ill. While few would suggest dropping cell phones in a community with little or no western contact and no concept of advanced technology, in the proper context western technology can be of use to those in the developing world. Success of these technologies really depends on the ability and interest of the community to maintain the technology in the long run. Dropping off artifacts of technology and assuming they will aid communities in making positive changes is no longer acceptable.

Next time you pick up your cell phone or palm pilot think for a second about how the technology we take for granted can make a profound difference to the life of someone living in a developing nation.

Letters

Poetry corner
I am writing to inform Robyn Morgan and Nicole Porteous that their letter's objective will for the most part be sadly misinterpreted.

The viewpoint of UVic students is: if you don't support abortion, you are not a feminist and for a UVic student, being falsely labeled as such entitles you to be permanently outcast as a pariah.

The authors of the many terrible bastardizations of journalism in *the Martlet* follow this paradigm of stupidity down a dark hole, dragging the school's reputation with them and all of us too. I'd like to end with a little poem whose speaker you may recognize standing around UVic at any given day:

Hey everyone, I consider myself a sort of crazy-haired genius from the University of Victoria!
Let's all gather round and complain about something that Gordon Campbell may or may not have done, whilst dancing to the redundant sound of someone beating on a drum!
Protest this, complain about that, mix used clothes with stuff from GAP.

P.S. Why does the newspaper that represents the majority of UVic students' "anti-corporate" views have an ad for cigarettes on the back?

Adrienne Kelly Ridgway

Boo to you too
Reading the "Boo! on Olympic bid commercial" (Jan. 30), I wondered why Ruth Knoop places the blame squarely on VBC.

She completely forgets that Chief Vickers showed up in the commercial and was probably paid to do so. What is the harm in that? They are his traditions and if that's the way he wants them portrayed, then that's his prerogative. Why blame VBC? I doubt they held a gun to his head. Sorry, but just because we are at UVic and you use that buzz word "corporation," doesn't mean that everyone will jump onboard and say, "bad corporations with their special powers to make people exploit themselves."
Sometimes people exploit themselves on their own. However, I don't think that is what Chief Vickers is doing. Rather, I think he sees an opportunity for the First Nations to benefit from increased tourism and economic growth, and is doing what he can to ensure a future for his people.

Joe Collins

Young Liberal ponders candidacy
I am sitting here on a Friday evening, debating whether or not to run for Student Senate. I have an issue, as most people do, but I would plan on making mine the objective of my mandate should everything work out as planned. However, I am wondering, "Is it worth my time?"

The campaign alone would be quite an adventure, considering my opponents would try and slander me for everything from my political affiliation to my age. I can picture it now, an all-candidates debate with shouts of "Gordon Campbell follower" or other remarks of the same nature flying all over. However, I would make sure to put up one heck of a fight. As Tom Petty once sang, "I Won't Back Down".

Would I be branded as a fascist or (my favorite) a "dunce" for expressing my views? I think the cat is out of the bag – I don't like the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). And I will save you all the trouble of trying to figure out why I am advocating for optional membership fees; it isn't because I lost the UVSS Election in 2002. It's because you don't represent my views, said and done, and I am not yielding any benefits from funding the CFS.

You don't need to be a rocket scientist to understand what I had advocated for at the BC Liberal Convention; it was to make fees towards the CFS optional, not student society fees. I may not agree with the politics of the UVSS, but I am well aware of the jobs and services they provide.

I would see my issue through in the Senate due to my determination, and put up a good fight. The question is whether or not I wish to give my opponents the opportunity to reiterate the same rhetoric over and over again. I guess by the time this letter is published, we will know.

Dallas Henault
President - UVic BC Young Liberals

Coates misquoted
The BC Liberal government certainly does seem to have trouble listening to the majority of its constituents. However, it is the responsibility of the electorate to use whatever democratic means necessary to set the policy makers on track with the needs of the population.

In last week's article "Forget Matlock: Students prepare to rally with seniors," I was misquoted as having said that the Liberal government had shut down protest as a mode of expression. I'd like to clarify my belief that, though some politicians may publicly disregard protesters, the only means of actually shutting down this kind of expression is if constituents themselves neglect to use their voice.

Protest has been known to affect positive change by bringing important political issues further into the public realm and create significant pressure on government decision makers.

Our participation must not stop at the ballot box, and protest is one of many methods of exercising our right to send strong messages to the government in power.

It is our democratic duty to make efforts to maintain a political dialogue, lest we lose our voices altogether.

Jude Coates

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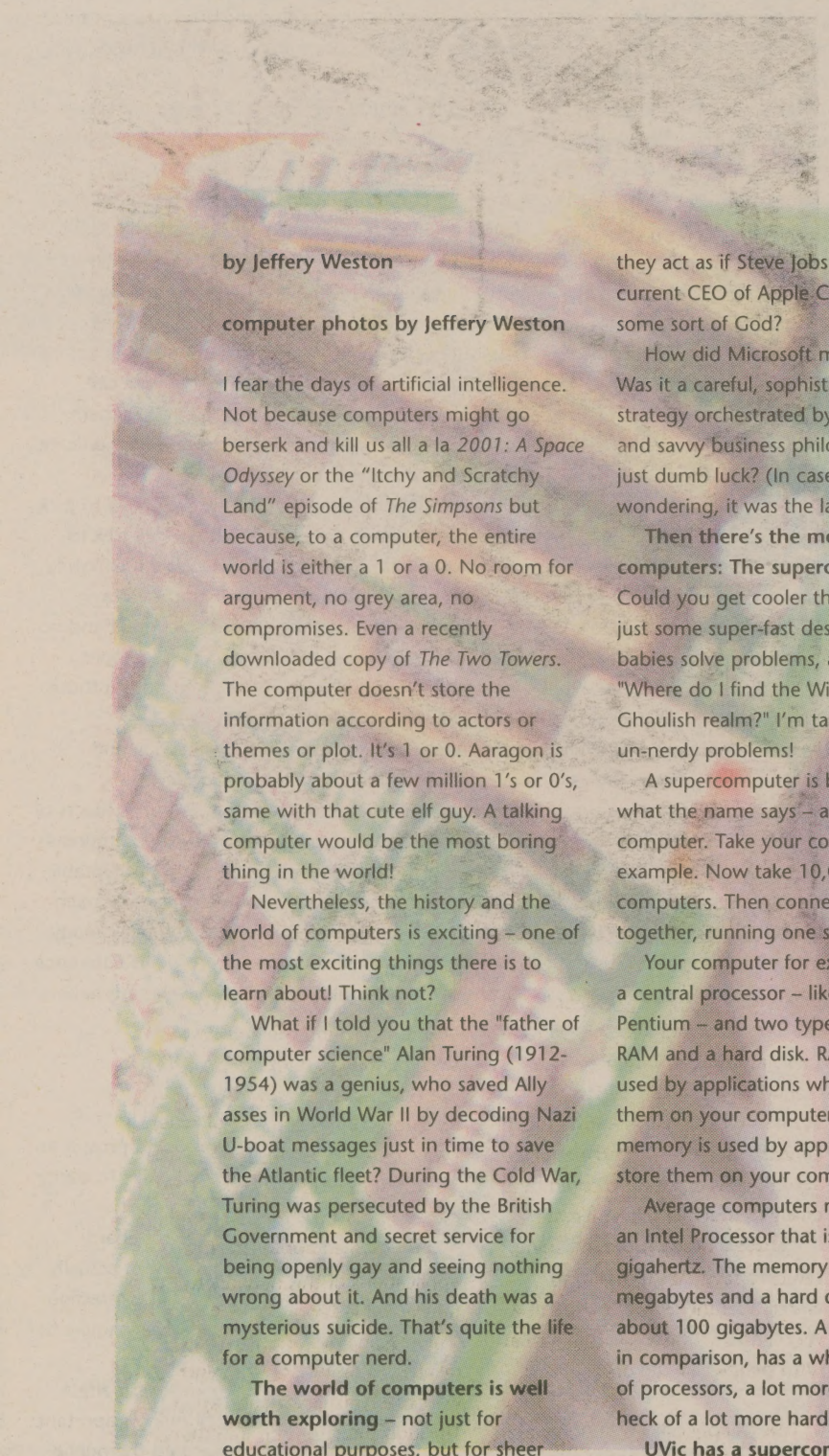


by Jeffery Weston

computer photos by Jeffery Weston

I fear the days of artificial intelligence. Not because computers might go berserk and kill us all a la *2001: A Space Odyssey* or the "Itchy and Scratchy Land" episode of *The Simpsons* but because, to a computer, the entire world is either a 1 or a 0. No room for argument, no grey area, no compromises. Even a recently downloaded copy of *The Two Towers*. The computer doesn't store the information according to actors or themes or plot. It's 1 or 0. Aaragon is probably about a few million 1's or 0's, same with that cute elf guy. A talking computer would be the most boring thing in the world!

Nevertheless, the history and the world of computers is exciting – one of the most exciting things there is to learn about! Think not?

What if I told you that the "father of computer science" Alan Turing (1912-1954) was a genius, who saved Ally asses in World War II by decoding Nazi U-boat messages just in time to save the Atlantic fleet? During the Cold War, Turing was persecuted by the British Government and secret service for being openly gay and seeing nothing wrong about it. And his death was a mysterious suicide. That's quite the life for a computer nerd.

The world of computers is well worth exploring – not just for educational purposes, but for sheer entertainment value.

The Mac/IBM rivalries, the dot.com bubble-burst, the Internet, for God's sake! Computers tracking every movement, computers talking to each other, computers losing your entire 5000 word essay!

Shareware, freeware, vaporware, spyware! mp3s, mp4s, DIVX!

Record companies + Napster – what the hell happened?

Why aren't floppy disks floppy?

FREE PORN - is it really true? Brb, lol, J;) :^) The list goes on and on!

And what about the companies involved?

What's the deal with this cult of Macintosh computer lovers? Why do they act as if Steve Jobs (founder and current CEO of Apple Computers) is some sort of God?

How did Microsoft make its billions? Was it a careful, sophisticated business strategy orchestrated by highly trained and savvy business philosophers? Or just dumb luck? (In case you're wondering, it was the latter.)

Then there's the mother of all computers: The supercomputer. Could you get cooler than this? It's not just some super-fast desktop PC. These babies solve problems, and not like "Where do I find the Wizard Key in the Ghoulish realm?" I'm talking about real, un-nerdy problems!

A supercomputer is basically just what the name says – a "super" computer. Take your computer, for example. Now take 10,000 of your computers. Then connect then all together, running one single program.

Your computer for example has got a central processor – like an Intel Pentium – and two types of memory: RAM and a hard disk. RAM memory is used by applications when you run them on your computer; hard-disk memory is used by applications just to store them on your computer.

Average computers nowadays have an Intel Processor that is about 1 – 2 gigahertz. The memory is about 256 megabytes and a hard disk that is about 100 gigabytes. A supercomputer, in comparison, has a whole truckload of processors, a lot more RAM, and a heck of a lot more hard-disk memory.

UVic has a supercomputer. It has 128 processors which when combined can run at a speed of 135 gigaflops, 64 gigabytes of RAM, (which is 64,000 megabytes) and a hard disk of about 1 Terabyte (or 1,000 Gigabytes).

The hard disk can hold about 300,000 mp3s, which is about 250 days of straight music. Or about 2,500 illegal copies of *The Two Towers*.

Unfortunately, this thing doesn't run Windows. It runs the UNIX operating system, which can be found on new Macintosh computers, and is what LINUX was spawned by.

"It's a big computer," says Dr. Nikitas Dimopoulos. "We use it to solve what we call 'Grand Challenges'."

Dimopoulos is a professor and chairman of UVic's electrical and computer engineering department. He was instrumental in securing grants for Minerva, the six-million-dollar supercomputer located in the basement of the Clearihue building.

Minerva was brought to UVic, not just for boasting reasons, but because a supercomputer, with its superior processing power, can speedily solve grand challenges that an ordinary computer would take years to compute.

Supercomputers are used mostly to model the real world. Astronomers use them to model galaxies and star clusters; microbiologists use them to model complex protein strings in the human body to find new drugs, and cures for diseases and illnesses.

According to the semi-annual ranking of the top computers, Japan holds the current record for the world's fastest supercomputer. (Minerva was ranked 164th, when it was installed at UVic in November 2002.)

The world's fastest computer is called the Earth Simulator. Its top speed is 40 teraflops (40, 000 gigaflops).

To put this into perspective, the speed of light is about 300,000 m/sec. So this machine can add about 7,800 numbers together and give you the result before the light from your monitor even reaches your eyes. Now that's pretty cool!

The Japanese government, in response to the **Kyoto protocol**, started the Earth Simulator project. And now its main purpose is to model and simulate the earth's climate and atmosphere.

How does a supercomputer work?

Well, it works on the same principles that a regular computer works on. Its processors work with its RAM and hard disk to run applications. These are mostly just number-crunching applications, which is where the term gigaflops comes from. A flop or FLOP stands for floating point operations per second. A floating point number is just a number with a decimal point.

The main obstacle in creating supercomputers is speed. Adding more processors just doesn't do the job. The trick is to be using all the processors all of the time.

Most computers have got just one processor. So anytime your computer does something, it has to go through that processor. In a supercomputer – UVic's Minerva supercomputer, for instance – you've got 128 processors. It gets very difficult to use all of them, since when you make a piece of software to run on it, you have to make sure you're making full use of the entire supercomputer. There is no mechanism that automatically displaces the work equally across all the processors. Special software will get you part of the way, but the technical skill of programmers is required to get the most use of the computer.

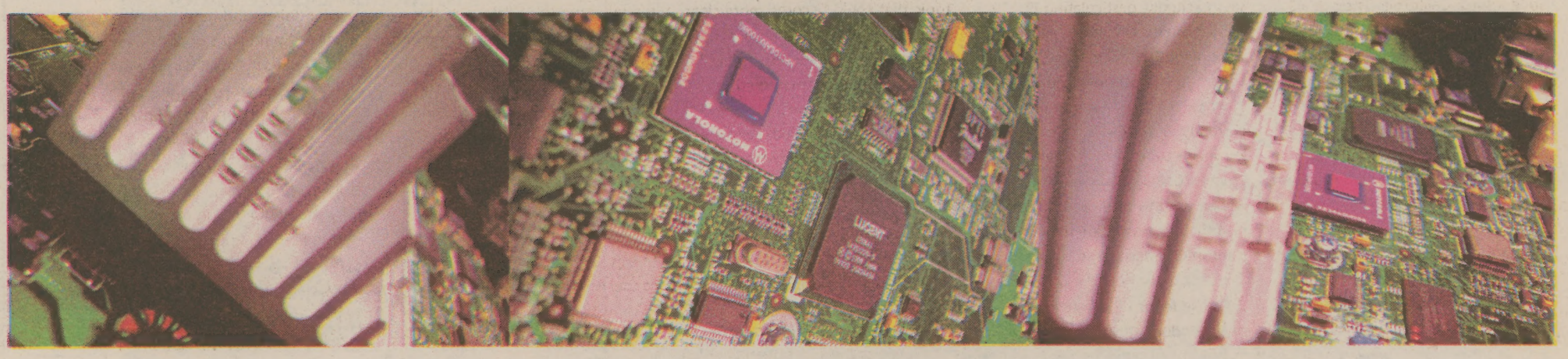
Another problem is heat. A desktop computer has a fan on it to protect the processor from overheating. Well if you've got a lot of processors, all running at the same time, they can get very hot. And you've got to prevent them from melting! (The Earth Simulator in Japan has got its own air-conditioning system!)

The third problem is building the machine. Information must flow very easily between the processors. If one processor has to send information to another processor it better be near by. Otherwise time will be wasted. And what if another processor requires the output of that information? This processor could end up slowing down a large portion of the system. So the processors must be very close together. Unfortunately that also increases the heat of the system!

Supercomputers are used all around the world to model everything from urban traffic to stellar galaxies. And supercomputers will still be finding uses in our world, as long as humans feel the need to make some sense of it all.

There are things in this universe so complex that it would take a human mind centuries to comprehend. Supercomputers are able to understand them in a matter of minutes. All we have to do is learn to speak their language, which is made up of only two simple words... "one" and "zero".

So just maybe having a conversation with a computer would not be such a boring experience. You'd just have to ask it the right questions....



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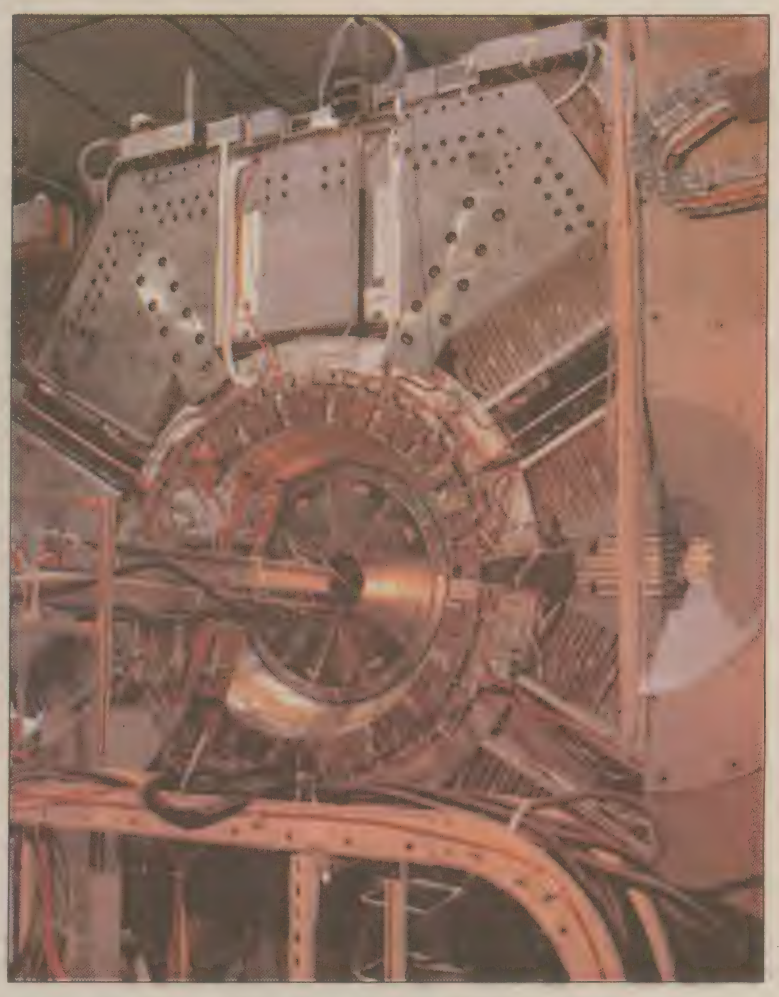

by John Thompson

Particles spill from my brain, out my ears and dissipate in a fine mist around me.

At least, that's how I feel after spending several hours with some of UVic's top subatomic researchers. As an English literature geek, my pet peeve at university has long been how our academic disciplines are often self-contained and isolated from one another: If I was studying during the Renaissance, I'd have a much fuller understanding of the world – as it was understood at the time. Much has been learned since then, but how much of it do we actually understand?

"I want to be a Renaissance Man of the World," I think as I leave the comforts of the Clearihue building on Monday afternoon, stride past the Petch fountain and enter the Elliot building, where the physics and astronomy department dwells.

Inside, I meet Charles Picciotto, chair of the department. He tells me they have 19 faculty members, making the department small by international standards, yet they remain globally competitive: The latest issue of *National Geographic* features Julio Navarro, a UVic astrophysicist who is renowned for his evolutionary models of galaxies.

Navarro is one of several researchers in the department with an international reputation, and as far as Canada is concerned, UVic's astronomy resources are rivaled only by those of the University of Toronto. Our local observatory, nested in the Saanich hills, has the largest optical telescope in the country.

"This is where the action is," Picciotto says, listing faculty names and their scholarly distinctions. I decide to explore the physics wing, since I'm more interested in quantum weirdness and wave theory than the Milky Way and black holes. Stars are in the sky, but particles are everywhere.

I climb the stairs and knock on Bob Kowalewski's door. He is one of over 500 PhD scientists collaborating between 75 institutions in 10 countries on BaBar, a particle generator located in Stanford, California. Their goal? To understand the breakdown of symmetry between matter and antimatter.

"This is not science fiction," Kowalewski assures me, explaining that every particle known has a corresponding antiparticle, and laboratory experiments have shown that when one is created, an equal amount of its counterpart is created too. The question scientists now struggle with is: Why is the rest of the universe so different, with so much matter and so little antimatter?

Some theories hold that distant parts of the universe are composed of antimatter; however, current evidence indicates there really is an imbalance between the two.

"Somewhere along the way, matter won out," Kowalewski says. The experiments at BaBar are designed to explain why this happens.

In Stanford, electrons and their antimatter twin, positrons, scream towards each other through a vacuum-sealed five-kilometre-long accelerator and into a circular ring buried beneath the earth, where they collide. Surrounding them are thick walls layered like an onion with different detectors to gauge their collision. These experiments recreate a state similar to the primordial beginnings of the universe, before matter expanded, condensed and cooled like steam condensing into water droplets.

Connecting the lab and the outside world are plenty of additional assumptions. One is the idea that the universe is supersymmetrical: Just as matter corresponds with antimatter, another symmetry could exist between matter and –

At this point I confess my brain is overflowing with information. So much for being a "Renaissance Man of the World".

"That's typical, because these are subtle questions, and even experts can be confused," Kowalewski consoles. "Even many particle physicists have a superficial understanding of it."

After several deep breaths of air, I visit Michel Lefebvre down the hall. He teaches special relativity, advanced quantum mechanics, and describes his research as "the quest of seeing smaller." He explains that the endeavour began in 1590, when a Dutch eyeglass maker discovered he could see tiny critters in the water supply with the help of the lenses he polished, and he suspected this had something to do with why townspeople were becoming ill.

"A whole new world was opened to him, and that's exactly what we do with particle physics," Lefebvre says excitedly, gesticulating his hands for effect. Rather than working with a microscope, Lefebvre has been involved since 1991 with ATLAS, a particle detector currently under construction in the European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN) in Geneva. ATLAS will be used to study proton-to-proton collisions inside the Large Hadron Collider that is being built at CERN, an accelerator that will be 27 km in length, powered by superconducting magnets and designed to probe nature at its smallest constituents. Over 2,000 physicists are involved from more than 150 universities and labs in 34 countries.

Lefebvre explains that ATLAS is his equivalent of a microscope, while the particle accelerator is like a lightbulb to illuminate what he studies. He says there's a certain irony in studying things on such a small scale, since it requires very large structures: ATLAS will be roughly the size of a seven-storey building, sunken into the earth. Its construction is not an easy task – Lefebvre likens it to building a ship in a bottle. The first collisions should take place by the summer of 2007, and he hopes they will show some new things, and maybe demolish a few theories along the way.

"We know there are deficiencies in our models," he says. These deficiencies leave open new possibilities: Again, supersymmetry is one idea predicted by physicists, but doesn't yet have a shred of evidence to support it. But if the supersymmetry theory is correct, its implications are large: It could effectively double the number of particles that exist.

Another possible breakthrough could be the detection of extra dimensions.

"We know there are dimensions beyond three," he says. "They have to be curled up somehow; they have to be wrapped around each other." These dimensions are expected to be not bigger than about 100 micrograms – and difficult for people like me to imagine. To help, Lefebvre suggests that I imagine I'm a two-dimensional beast living on a sphere. From this standpoint, three dimensions would be equally boggling to understand. Still, there are experiments I could conduct, like crawling around the surface until I reach the point from which I left. The universe is more complicated than this, but similar principles could be applied to discovering new dimensions, detected with particle experiments.

"We have no knowledge of this dimension, because we don't live in it, but other particles might," he says.

Dark matter is another murky topic that could become more clear through subatomic experiments. Currently, astrophysicists suspect mysterious dark matter could explain why the rotation of some galaxies appears skewed. Lefebvre says it's another mystery the experiments with ATLAS could unlock.

We continue talking, and it soon becomes clear to me that Lefebvre sees the world very differently than most of us do.

"I view space and time in a very different way than most people on the street," he admits. Still, what he sees has implications on everyday technology: Global Positioning System (GPS) requires knowledge of curved space-time. If this weren't accounted for, positions could be off by as much as a kilometer.

"That's a pretty profound thing," Lefebvre says. "We're trying to understand the laws of nature at a very fundamental level. That's what turns people like me on."

Not all applications of particle physics are this theoretical, or abstract. The field of medical physics is expected to grow in coming years at UVic, which could lead to more precise forms of radiation therapy for treating cancer patients. Another offshoot is nanotechnology, or the construction of tiny machines and microchips on an atomic scale. In the past year, B.C. Choi has been hired to establish studies in this at UVic. But before I leave the physics floor, I speak with one more professor involved in a particularly interesting project: The next generation of the Internet.

In fact, the World Wide Web was invented at CERN in 1989 by physicists to share information, explains Randy Sobie. Now they are developing its successor, the Grid. Both the experiments at BaBar and ATLAS will record thousands of terabytes worth of data, and this new network could provide a means to analyze and store this.

"In a larger way, we want to effectively make them into a single computing facility," Sobie says. To a typical PC user this may seem strange, but he says this becomes necessary when an application requires 1,000 computers in order to run. Sobie says the network model is named after a power grid: In principle, you should be able to plug in anywhere.

"This has attracted a lot of attention around the world," he says, handling an introduction to the Grid written by BM. He expects its completion is still several years away, but at present there are 10 institutions collaborating for Grid Canada, and UVic is one of them.

When asked about practical applications of this network in the future, Sobie suggests a scenario where a doctor in northern B.C. has taken a patient's CAT scan and wants to consult with an expert. Through the Grid, this information could be quickly relayed: While our campus Internet transfers data at around half a megabyte per second, the Grid can move 10 gigabytes in that time. (Just don't expect music companies to embrace this technology, I think to myself: I later work out that's about 2,000 mp3s every second.)

So that's what I gleaned from about two hours inside the physics department. Afterwards, I stumble from Elliot, my head brimming with ideas, but knowing it could be worse: At least I'm not boggling over how I can be a wave, and a particle, but never both at the same time, or some other quantum Zen weirdness...

A group of physics students are gathered on the lawn, all staring into the same patch of clear blue sky above the library. I ask one what they're doing, and he explains a satellite should light up in the sky any minute now, as it aligns with the sun. After several minutes of waiting, the students give up and trundle back inside. I find this a strange comfort, that even physics students find themselves reaching for a momentary flash of brilliance that may never appear to them.

I walk back to Clearihue – maybe not feeling like a Renaissance Man of the World, but at least more like a well-rounded student.

Musical laptops, do-hickies and thing-a-ma-bobs

by Sarah Petrescu

photo by Sarah Petrescu

No, this isn't a behind-the-scenes shot of the '70s classic film, *Battlestar Galactica.* It's your local rock band, really.

Two young guys sit on the stage of the noisy, sardined local watering hole. They are on bar stools and in front of them rest slick new laptops. They peck away frenziedly at their keyboards and gear-shift their mouses. The techno drumbeat hits like a shower of bullets and weird little noises permeate the air.

The crowd doesn't know what to think. Maybe they've downloaded some mp3s, strange tracks no one has heard of. Nope.

This is raw. This is on the spot. This is the future of live music.

Boquma is an experimental group that blends the old and new in music technology. They are an everchanging collective of musical artists, constantly adding new members and sounds. Pema, Mike and Andy are the core members. They combine music made on their laptops, using a program called Reason, with various drum machines. I checked out the collective at the first of a series of Saturday night gigs at the Su Casa café. The urban-hippie atmosphere of the café was an interesting juxtaposition to the group, who dominated two rather large tables with masses of techie gear. Half a dozen guys bustled about the tables hooking up a variety of prospective instruments ranging from effects pedals and percussion simulators to an old Casio and a turntable playing spray-painted 45s. A plethora of patch cords overlapped each other, all taking joy in three very full power bars. This group may not have to worry about breaking a string, but they could easily blow a fuse.

The most intriguing aspect of the group's live performance is assuredly the laptop setup because... well, it's kind of weird. Reason is essentially a looping program that includes synthesizers, samplers and a drum machine. It is available on a CD-ROM, complete with its own realtime sequencer. Pema likes the program because it simulates the sounds of classic instruments from the '60s and '70s. He also likes the flexibility of making music electronically. "I find electronic is effective for getting out what's in my head," he says. "You can make abstract sound more easily."

He admits that you do not need a musical background to use the program, although he has one himself, but adds "it is probably easier, composition wise, to have some musical experience."

Although many music artists use electronic programs (note: Radiohead and Björk), few use them for complete live shows. For this reason, many people who have seen Boquma play aren't quite sure what they are doing.

"Most people think we're playing mp3s and ask whose track it is we're playing," says Pema. "I end up having to explain that it's us and that we are not djs."

So what are they? Pema describes what they do as "live P.A." I'm not sure what that means, but it sounds cool and definitely encapsulates the improv composition tactics that make the group so interesting to see.

Various incarnations of Boquma play Saturday nights at Su Casa in the Ocean Island Backpacker's Inn.

Love (?) and technology: there is no moral dilema

by Janos Sitar

Over the past several years I have been catching myself using the word "love" more frequently. Normally this would not be a problem, as I am not shy of using the word with those close to me. My cause for concern centers around the fact that I've been using that word in relationship to technology. Namely, a DVD player and more recently a CD burner.

Yes, I have said that I love these two metal, plastic and wire boxes. When I first got the DVD player it did not seem like a strange thing to say. Partially because I didn't realize the force of the L-word and partially because I so strongly dislike the degradation of image and sound quality on VHS tapes. Educationally, the DVD made transcribing dialogue for essays far easier, as the push of a button brought up the English language subtitles and had bonus material like Laura Mulvey's essay on Michael Powell's *Peeping Tom*. In short, one device enriched the quality of my life by fitting snugly between entertainment and work.

So then where did all this trepidation come from? Well, the recent purchase of a CD burner dramatically increased the association between love and technology to the point that I was beginning to question my use of the word and concept of love with an inanimate object.

Discovering the reason why I claimed I loved these things was simple enough: pleasure. I thoroughly enjoy movies and music, and these technologies were enabling me to enjoy them to a previously unprecedented degree. And having spent hours as a teenager making mixed tapes for friends, the ability to drag and drop songs onto a CD and record it in under 10 minutes is pretty amazing.

But what does this mean? Can pleasure be the answer? Is that the only thing that I need to consider? The simple answer is no. And so my thoughts turn to my position as a consumer of these technologies and how it implicates me as an active participant in the socio-political-economic structures of the world.

In thinking of myself in these terms, I am reminded of the Roman technology course that I am currently taking. Why? Well, part of the criteria for examining technology in the Roman world involves an examination of the role of technology in society and how social and economic elites and non-elites are involved in technology. This causes me to examine my own role in the consumption of the technologies listed above. As a consumer and user of electronic media, I have to identify myself in the context of a social and economic elite.

This is a difficult thing to accept, as I have never thought of myself as one of the elite. And so I ask myself, what does it mean to have access to such media? Personally, my capacity to gather, store and disseminate information is greater than ever before.

But what happens to those people who do not have access? Are they being left behind in greater leaps? Is this technology widening the already existing gap? While I use technology to further my education and to satisfy my desire for entertainment, am I blinding myself to the distance between essential tool and luxury item?

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Bob Wiseman gets cheeky

photo submitted

by Sarah Petrescu... sort of.

There are pros and cons to e-mail interviews. On the one hand, allowing a little personal space and reflection time to interviewees can bring about incredible insight into their character that would be lost in "on the spot" interviews. On the other hand, giving an artist the leeway to do what they want with an interview can quickly dispel any definitive plans for the article about them.

Leave it to Bob Wiseman to take advantage of having an interview all to himself. He decided to deviate from the questions I sent him via e-mail and added a few questions of his own.

Maybe Bob likes to play.

Maybe Bob has always wanted to know these things about himself, but has been too afraid to ask. Either way, Bob has revealed himself as a clever guy who's not afraid of a little creativity. But, for those of us who love Bob, we already knew that.

Wiseman is one of Canada's most eminent singer/songwriters, a sought-after producer and a hellion on the piano. He is a former member of Blue Rodeo and has shared the stage with too many famous people to mention. He is recognized for his freakishly charged live shows, political outspokeness and the ability to write sob-invoking love songs. He is perhaps the most enigmatic and underrated musician in Canada and, in my opinion, the best thing since sliced bread. Bob recently spoke to himself at his home in Toronto, and was kind enough to share his innermost feelings with *the Martlet*.

Bob asks: Why don't you tour anymore? Do you suffer from extreme stage fright? What is your problem?

Bob answers: Well, I was living in the country for awhile and I fell into the T.V./ film business, scoring/composing for these things. It's hard trying to establish your work internationally especially if it isn't mainstream work. But during the last two years I kinda started over. I joined a couple other groups (Slutarded, the Hidden Cameras) and put together a new band for me (Damn Ugly Children) and have been showcasing in New York and Chicago regularly, trying to find some people stateside to put out my stuff. No luck yet, but I'll keep doing it.

For whatever reasons, my batteries are recharged. Stage fright? I think I'm okay. I mean if I was playing to a Shriner convention maybe, but generally in Canada it's fun. What do you mean what is my problem? What is your problem?

Bob: Why has there not been a Bob Wiseman solo album since 1997?

Bob: I'm just swamped keeping on top of my offshore investments, building new condos and running my hamburger franchise. I'm more than halfway through a couple new CDs.

Bob: what do you think about music copying?

Bob: I have no problem with it. It has always gone on. The record companies aren't suffering. It's cool when people want to make sure an artist is paid but, hell, people generally don't act that way and it's just the way things are. I'm more interested in the division of monies that record companies collect and redistribute to artists. I'm interested in how they unfairly justify a huge percentage for themselves that makes the artists' percentage miniscule.

Bob: Did you like Gangs of New York?

Bob: Ya, it was okay. I saw it mostly for Daniel Day Lewis because he is so fucking amazing. But, personally, I am way more freaked out about Akira Kurosawa. The man is a fucking genius.

Bob: Do you know any magic tricks?

Bob: Yes, I know this one spectacular card trick. I learned it when I was 14 and it has never failed me.

Bob: What are your cats' names?

Bob: Mr. Bean & Madame George.

Bob: Are you in love?

Bob: Yes I am. I am in love with a drummer named Magali. She is the best.

Bob: Will you be playing new songs or old songs?

Bob: Yep.

Bob: Is it true you love to cook?

Bob: You bet.

Bob: War with Iraq?

Bob: Insane. Wrong. Lies. Bullshit. I don't buy it.

Thanks Bob. You're a gem.

Bob Wiseman plays Thursdays pub Sat., Feb 15 with guest Ryan Murphy.

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Ready, Set, Focus with *City Of God*

City of God
Fernando Meirelles
Brazil

by Kenneth Rose

Leaving this film was a bit of a culture shock. It captured my attention for the two hours it ran. I never once checked my watch or thought about doing laundry. Not that the film isn't thought-provoking. It is just that you'd have to be inhuman to sort colours in your head while you watched a camcorder style film of a five-year-old boy shooting another at close range during a gang initiation.

This is *City of God*.

Youth violence is a regular occurrence in the film. It is set in a low-income development of Rio de Janeiro. *City of God*, or '*Cidade de Deus*,' is directed by Fernando Meirelles and Katia Lund. It is the second film by Meirelles, and is based on the true story captured in the novel of the same title by Paulo Lins.

City of God deals with Brazilian youth gangs. It is the true story of Lil' Ze, Knockout Ned, and the events which led up to their climactic urban gang war over the slum's drug trade, power, and personal honour.

But this film is no *West Side Story*. In fact, it holds little resemblance to the Hollywood glamourization of urban gang life. The story chronicles the growth of the slum, colonized by refugees in the 1960s, through to the early '80s. It traces the lives of gang members from childhood, discussing the effects of poverty on their ability to be successful men. It is an illiterate, seemingly hopeless world in which an aspiring young photographer, Rocket (Luis Otavio) learns that working one's way up is nearly impossible in a world where one's daily agenda is merely staying alive.

Visually, the film is an editing masterpiece, which parallels the theme of gunshots and camera shots together with quick takes from seemingly endless angles.

The music, by Antonio Pinto, is an equally stimulating, fast-paced Latin American drum session.

Part political documentary, part coming-of-age story and part cinematic art film, *City of God* is a movie everyone should see.

photo submitted

Groovefest: set your pants on fire

by Sarah Petrescu

It's circus time.

The eighth annual *Groovefest* takes place this Saturday night at Vertigo. Billed as the antithesis of the overtly commercial and loathesome Valentine's Day, *Groovefest* celebrates diversity and activism as truer expressions of love than bon bons and roses.

Groovefest is organised by the UVic Women's Centre, but includes participants from all over the campus and community. Any person who has attended a *Groovefest* in the past knows that there is no lack of interesting acts. From fire jugglers to drag kings and local designers to random naked people, *Groovefest* is always a party on high alert.

This year *Groovefest* will feature anti-fashion wear, drag shows, poetry, skits and music by DJs Mama Miche and Marlee.

"*Groovefest* is an opportunity for local folks to show their talent and express themselves," says organiser Eliza Walter.

The monies raised from *Groovefest* will go to P.E.E.R.S and the S.E.X.Y. Youth Group.

Groovefest *or bust: Sat., Feb. 15 @ 9 p.m. Tix $9 in advance and $11 at the door.*

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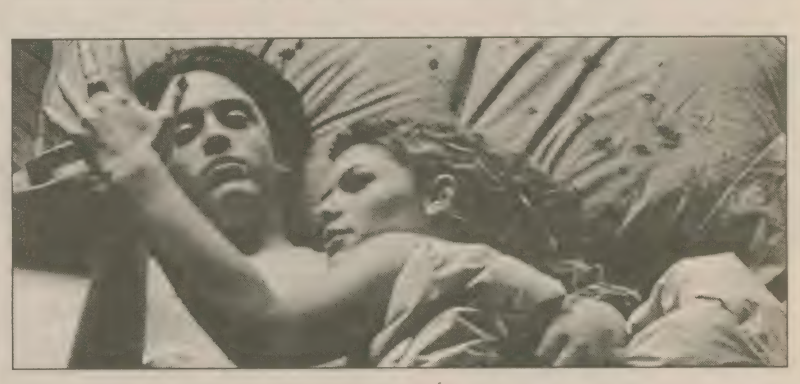

It's time to go down

Igby Goes Down
Burr Steers
by Briony Smith

I knew this day would come. The day of the rebirth of the Culkin dynasty has arrived in the form of *Igby Goes Down*, starring the Culkin next in line for fame and fortune, young Kieran. This reappearance of the bland, appealing charm of the clan Culkin is not as scary as one might think.

Kieran is a Culkin of another colour. He can act. This boy is a fine thespian, with a dry humour and the sort-of realistic appeal of someone who is short and scrawny and looks funny with a cigarette in his mouth. His performance as Igby Slokum is what makes *Igby Goes Down* such an amazingly watchable film.

The script, written by actor Burr Steers (who also directs), is also extremely intelligent and funny. On the off chance that a screenwriter can actually churn out a decent script these days, the artiste runs the risk of having his stable of brainless hot young talent butcher their words. This is not the case here. Culkin takes a potentially dangerous role and makes it work. For example: when questioning the plausibility of his girlfriend's (Claire Danes) parentage, the question, "How many Vassar professors and intellectual theologians beget nymphomaniacal, pseudo-Bohemian JAPs?" rolls off his tongue. This might sound like a screenwriter getting his rocks off, but the pairing of young Master Culkin's self-deprecating tone and these fancy-pants words is brilliant.

I was wary of attending the film, which appeared to be a thinly veiled homage to (read: rip-off of) that seminal tome of the alienation of rich youths everywhere (you know which one). The standard plot points – the cruel and unloving mother, the aversion to boarding school, the terrible pathos of being loaded yet still so misunderstood – are all present, but Steers has imbued his script with wit and found supporting players with enough smarts to understand the words coming out of their own mouths. Congratulations are in order to the casting agent on this film, as the actors are brilliantly chosen. Susan Sarandon is scathing as the matriarch so brutal that her own children refer to her by her first name, rather than something so affectionate as Mom. Jeff Goldblum is fantastic as a slick man who oozes through life in a series of absolutely gorgeous suits, slipping people cash wads held poised between index and middle finger.

This is the kind of movie you could look at and say, "I could write this!" or "I could star as Igby!" But therein lies the genius of this film. The script is original and intelligent because the words seem so real and so effortless. And Culkin? He makes it look easy.

Igby Goes Down *plays at the Cinecenta Monday, Feb.17.*

The sweet and sour of the '03 Victoria Independent Film and Video Fest

Stormy Weather: The Music of Harold Arlen
Larry Weinstein
Canada

by Ryan Harriot

Stormy Weather is a crazy hallucinogenic tour of the rise and fall of one Harold Arlen. Who is he? The man responsible for the music of *The Wizard of Oz* and a host of other songs no one ever bothered to give him credit for. We catch up with Arlen in geriatric form, as he wanders about his home, haunted by a storm raging outside. Inside, the poor man stumbles from one hallucination to another, in a series of seamless transitions. Each reverie showcases another of Arlen's songs, all of which relate back to the tragic events of his life through a real T.V. retrospective that is blaring from his living room.

The story here isn't particularly riveting. It's a standard tale of glory and bust in Hollywood, and one can't shake the sensation that this has all been done before. The weight of this film, therefore, is carried by its musical performances. These are so varied and inconsistent though, that it might have made more sense to release a series of music videos. Particularly amusing were David Johansen's jazzed-up "Kickin' the Gong Around" and an insane-asylum-bound Mary Margaret O'Hara's tremulous take on "Blues in the Night." On the other hand, Jimmy Scott's rendition of "Over the Rainbow" was possibly the most painful thing I've ever experienced in a movie theatre. It's always strange to watch a bunch of well-choreographed performers you've barely ever heard of sing songs that your parents' parents may or may not have listened to. For the real keeners, there'll be a soundtrack out next week. Really.

photo submitted

A scene form *Stormy Weather,* about composer Harold Arlen.

Victoria Film Producers' Association
by Briony Smith

While standing in line for the *ViFPA* screening, I asked the man in front of me what we were filing into the theatre to see. As I am a jaded movie enthusiast, I find it difficult to see a film with no preconceived notions or expectations. I had deliberately refrained from asking what the *ViFPA* was so that I might have a rare feeling of surprise and excitement when I sat down to watch a movie I knew nothing about. Imagine my horror when the man said, "Oh, it's the *Victoria Film Producers' Association* screening of excerpts from six docs about social change." I cringed as he ever-so-airily threw in the lingo of a seasoned fortysomething cinephile nerd.

My fears were confirmed as I trudged into the theatre: the seats were filled with rows of graying middle-aged folks and pudgy baby-boomers. This torture only intensified as the "moderator" took the stage. He was one of those self-important Canadian wannabe slicksters from the CBC. He cracked some old-people jokes, grinning when the old-timers chuckled appreciatively.

The format of the screening was terrible. Six 15-minute excerpts from three documentaries. This was frustrating. If you like the film in question, you resent only being shown 15 minutes of it. If you don't like it, you have to sit through 15 minutes of boredom.

These two sets of screenings of three "docs" were punctuated by the appearance of the filmmakers, who spoke and answered questions. This could have been interesting. The subject matter of the documentaries included the contribution of First Nations people to the establishment of B.C., the slave trade in India, and the funding cuts to stringed instrument education in schools. But the moderator spent most of the time talking over the filmmakers and interjecting useless comments.

I would not attend this event again. I would rather view one documentary in its entirety and actually be able to hear what the filmmaker wants to say afterward, uninterrupted by a D-level radio host who won't shut up.

InVision
by Briony Smith

InVision, a collection of short films from students across the country, was screened at the current VIFVF. The fare was a little dark but, overall, I was impressed with the talent showcased.

A $500 prize was to be given to the best short film. I was not too jazzed when it was presented to Rachel Moore (British Columbia), director/animator of *The Fastlane,* before the actual screening. It would have been a better competitive vibe if they had held off on dispensing the prize until all the films had been shown. I was disappointed with Moore's victory, as I found *The Fastlane* to be the least entertaining film. It was three minutes of smudgy blue animation, and a vague boring plot about a swim meet. There was no dialogue and the sound quality was poor.

Despite the predominant morbidity of the film plots, the other shorts were original in content. British Columbian Colin Minihans film *Jet* was a wigga-studded gorefest (albeit with a decent soundtrack) masquerading as a PSA against shoplifting.

My favourite film by far was the short by British Columbians Jeff Bryant and Evan Roberts. *Der Keffeherstellar* is a mockumentary about a filmmaker who favours making black-and-white silent expressionist films in German. It featured hilarious interviews with his favourite actors, Helmut and Hans, as well as street interviews with locals. A cross between *This is Spinal Tap* and *Sprockets,* I found this to be hilarious. Bryant and Roberts should have taken home that $500.

Relapse (just like that) is no record skipping

Relapse (just like that)
Daniel Laskarin
by G.W Spence

As I approach the Lab at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, I hear repetitious pounding, a siren, what sounds like street noise and muffled voices, all coming from the room beyond.

I enter and find the source of the sounds, *Relapse (just like that)* by artist Daniel Laskarin. The room is painted yellow with a number of small boxes on the floor. The boxes are the same yellow as the walls. They are connected with blue wire, perhaps an organized randomness similar to the sights and sounds of the city. This is where the sounds are coming from. On four of the boxes are LCD screens. I watch a building collapse, only to reappear and collapse again. There is a moment of anxiety. Entranced with the video, I am suddenly snapped back into the present space sound: the siren wasn't this loud before.

Aware of my surroundings, the pale yellow of the room soothes, offering a reprieve from the moment. There is consistency. The boxes, the walls and the wire are all in place, formulating an area of calmness for the audio and video to work against. The sound throws a monkey wrench into the whole thing. It is a loop, but alters slightly each time around. Certain sounds are highlighted or dulled, keeping the viewer alert.

The image of the building collapsing invokes the shock of seeing the World Trade Center fall for the first time, while simultaneously resisting that perception. The loop nullifies the action of collapsing because the building is always there. It doesn't really collapse. This puts the viewer in a situation where they cannot fully trust what they are seeing.

Skyscrapers are iconic monuments. They sometimes transcend their fundamental uses as places for working or living. Occasionally we place our hope in these technical and engineering marvels to create something new, something better.

But like true reflections of ourselves, this ideal and exuberance is often neglected. Perhaps, like many other things humans create, the building finally just implodes by itself, or is able to cast off its old baggage and carry on.

Relapse (just like that) offers both the drama of genesis and of a stifling devastation and dances with both, situating itself in an unresolvable state of flux. But maybe this is right where Laskarin wants us to be.

Relapse (just like that) *runs at the Lab in the AGGV from Feb. 7 until Mar 23.*

photo by G.W. Spence

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UVic in need of the bling-bling?

by Jenn Bowles

The Martlet's Jenn Bowles finds nameless Department of Athletics source colder than a polar bear's toenail in search for hot tips on sports technology.

Nobody at UVic wants to talk about sports technology! Apparently, the current status of UVic Athletics and Recreation is a touchy subject.

I began my research by contacting the top-dogs. My mission: to find out if there had been any innovative advancements in their facilities, equipment and/or programming.

Sounds easy, right? Well, not only did I fail to get any solid information, but I also encountered conflicting interests.

According to Paul Smith, head of Intramurals, UVic is stranded in the stone-age. "The lack of innovative sports technology is due to insufficient funding," he said. "In comparison to other universities, UVic is lagging behind."

Whoever it was that answered the Department of Athletics office phone, who wished to remain nameless, disagreed.

"Sweetie," he said, "Paul Smith is always complaining. If UVic doesn't want to fund athletics, it's their decision. I'm not gonna complain."

Hmmm.

One thing is certain: the university is not putting enough money into Rec Plus or Athletics; at least not enough to satisfy those in charge.

What about Health and Fitness? We do have an ample choice of programs from Kundalini Yoga and Tai Chi Chih to Pilates and Funky Latin Cardio. We can't be that far behind, can we?

Kathi Cameron, member of the BCRPA board of directors and a Rec Wellness and Lifestyle programmer, thinks UVic is doing just fine.

"I almost want to say we're leaders," she said. "We have quality programming at a good price. Most people look at the classes we offer and just freak when they see the prices."

And so they should. With top-quality instructors and prices well below the norm, UVic's Mind and Body Fitness programs are unbeatable. Dance, Martial Arts and Aquatics also operate at appealing student rates.

At this stage of my research I was thoroughly confused. Intramurals: underfunded. Athletics: could care less. Health and Fitness: top quality. So what do UVic athletes have to say about all this?

Kate Hambleton, a Vikes women's soccer player, has no complaints about facilities.

"The field has gotten a lot better and they irrigate it regularly now. They [the university] have taken care of us."

Eric Rushton, member of the Vikes men's team, thinks the McKinnon gym could use an upgrade.

"The floor has never been replaced," he said. "It's been there for 25 years. Since they built the place. There are dead spots everywhere; when you dribble the ball, it just stops."

I asked Faraley Vander Schilden, a Vikes women's rower, if there were any holes in the boats and if there had been any near drownings due to leaks.

"No, the boats are great!" she said, laughing. "We just got a new 8 this year, it's awesome. We also got some new singles from a private donor - they're really good. And we got new oars last year - they're all still in good shape."

So what can I conclude? I can't, really. Athletics are all over the place. Each sport has it's advancements and setbacks and the people in charge agree to disagree.

I say, find a sugar-daddy like the rowers did: they know what's going on.

Lauderdale Saints:

UVic soccer teams on Florida mission

by Ruth Knoop

photo by Natalie Condrashoff

The Vikes men's Soccer team takes to the field in preparation for next week's Florida Tour in Ft. Lauderdale.

While the majority of UVic students will spend reading break studying hard, the Vikes men's and women's soccer teams will work fervently on their tans as they take to the fields of Ft. Lauderdale for the Florida Tour Soccer Tournament.

Both the men's and women's teams will face off against three southern Florida universities Feb. 14 to 23. The men face tough competition from Florida Atlantic, Nova, and the University of Lynn. The women square off against teams from Florida Atlantic, Nova, and Barry University.

In the last ten years, the Vikes soccer teams have also competed in exhibition competitions in Mexico and California.

"We've been lucky," says men's head coach Bruce Wilson.

Typically, the fall semester is more strenuous for the varsity squads as they vie for opportunities at the Canada West Championships, and hopefully CIS Nationals. The second half of the year allows the teams to focus more on training and preparation for the upcoming season.

"It's a chance to look at players who did not play a lot during the first half of the season," says Wilson.

Although training is the main goal of the tournament, the matches won't be taken lightly.

"We take it very seriously," says Wilson. "These teams are hard to play against. The guys have competitive spirits, and can't help but want to win."

The men's team has enjoyed much success down south in the past, culminating in an undefeated tour last winter.

"It would be nice to win all three games again," says Wilson.

Unlike the men, who compete in the U.S. every year, this will only be the third time for the women's team. They previously attended one tournament in Florida, and one in California.

"We want to win!" says women's head coach Tracy David. "We've been working hard for not only this tournament, but also the Spring Cup."

"We don't know what the level of competition will be like down there, so we will just have to go and find out there."

The sunny climate will give the Vikes a break from the island's temperamental weather.

"It's been unfortunate for us," says David. "Three of our games have been cancelled because of the rain."

The tournament is also about money, as the teams need to pay for travel, lodging and food expenses. Funds were raised through dances, refereeing in corporate games, the annual Vikes calendar and Vikes Summer Camps.

The Florida Tour is not the only exhibition tournament for Vikes soccer this semester. In March, UVic hosts the annual Keg Spring Cup, where the men face Portland's Concordia University, and rivals UBC and SFU. The women will take on UBC, SFU and the University of Alberta.

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Women's basketball orders first round of playoffs

by Mark Samcoe

The best place to catch Cougars in action this weekend won't be Sweetwaters' nightcub, but the McKinnon Gym.

That's because the Vikes women's basketball team will play host to the University of Regina Cougars in the opening round of the Canada West playoffs – the first meeting between the queen city schools this season – Friday night.

For most of the season, the two teams have been side-by-side in national rankings and the Canada West standings.

UVic (14-6) earned the honour of hosting the best-of-three series after a sweep of the U of C Dinos last weekend ensured them a third-place finish in regular season play.

The Vikes gave a strong performance Saturday, responding to a Friday night victory head coach Brian Cheng later described as "ugly."

"Calgary probably should've won," Cheng said. "We got lucky, and you gotta be good to be lucky. And we're good."

"We've created that strength and now we've got to take advantage."

The Cougars, coming off a split with Manitoba, boast Canada West's top offense, and two of the country's top scorers in guards Cymone Bouchard (22.2 ppg) and Jana Schweitzer (17.6 ppg).

"They can sure put it in the bucket," said Cheng.

For UVic to win and move on to the Canada West Final Four, it won't be as simple as shutting down the sweet-shooting duo.

"They've been known to put up 30 and still lose," said Cheng. "You gotta minimize their touches and make them work for every possession. It's not going to be easy."

Led by fifth-year guard Lindsay Anderson (15.4 ppg), the Vikes promise a balanced attack.

Seven Vikes put points up last Saturday, illustrating the depth Cheng has available, including players like third-year post Jennifer Diana (3.5 ppg) and first-year guard Beckie MacDonald (4.5 ppg).

"On any given game I don't know who's going to step up," said Cheng. "We've got a variety of ways to be successful."

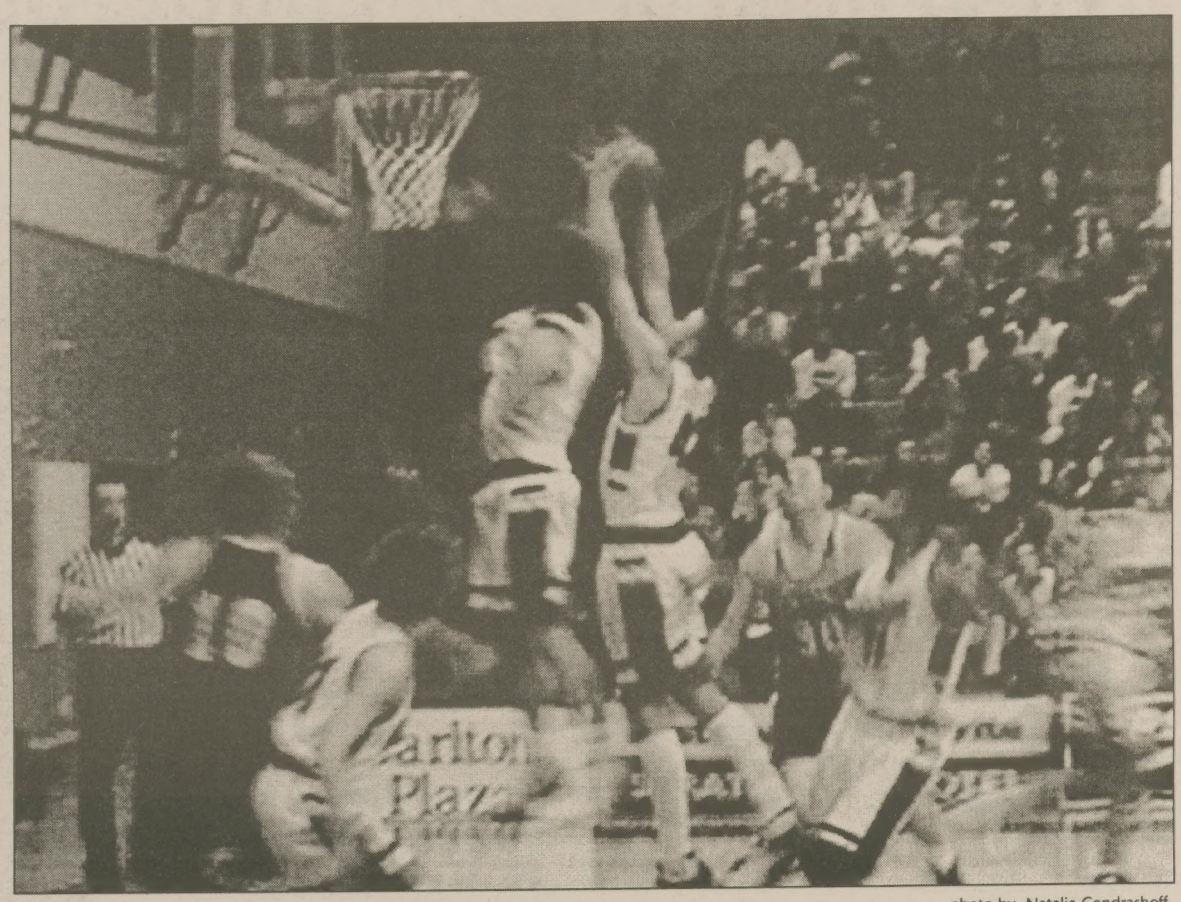


photo by Natalie Condrashoff

The men in action against the U of C Dinos last weekend. Stay tuned for details.

Vikes keen to clean up at national pool party

by Chris Hindmarch-Watson

The Vikes swim team posted some impressive performances at the 2003 Team Aquatic Supplies B.C. Senior Championships this past weekend in Vancouver.

The three-day competition attracted a number of Canada's national team athletes including 15 members of the 2002 Pan Pacific Championship team from last summer. This particular competition was the third and final meet of the B.C. Senior Circuit, which included meets in Victoria last October and Richmond in January. Through all three meets swimmers earn points for placing in the top eight overall in each individual event. On Sunday night, the overall circuit winners were awarded a cheque for $500 from Team Aquatic Supplies. UVic's Dave Creel picked up the distance freestyle category, while teammate Jesse Jacks walked away with the butterfly award. UVic swimming alumni were also winners on the weekend. Two-time Olympian Christin Petelski won the women's breaststroke category while John Stamhuis took home the men's individual medley money.

The Senior Championships was a final tune-up for the UVic swimmers before they host the 2003 CIS Swimming Championship Feb. 21-23 at Saanich Commonwealth Place. David Creel and Jesse Jacks continued their winning ways, adding some more gold to their collection. Creel won the opening event, and his specialty, taking the men's 1500 freestyle in an impressive time of 16:00.60. He also added a silver medal in the 400 IM and a bronze in the 400 freestyle later on in the weekend. Jacks picked up a win in his specialty, the men's 200 butterfly, and also added a silver in the 100 butterfly. Both Creel and Jacks will enter the CIS Swimming Championships as the favourites in their respective events.

On the women's side, Danielle Bell and Karley Stutzel used this opportunity to swim some of their off events posting best times throughout the weekend. Both Stutzel and Bell will compete in front of their home crowd at the CIS Championships as they aim for the top of the podium in the women's distance freestyle events.

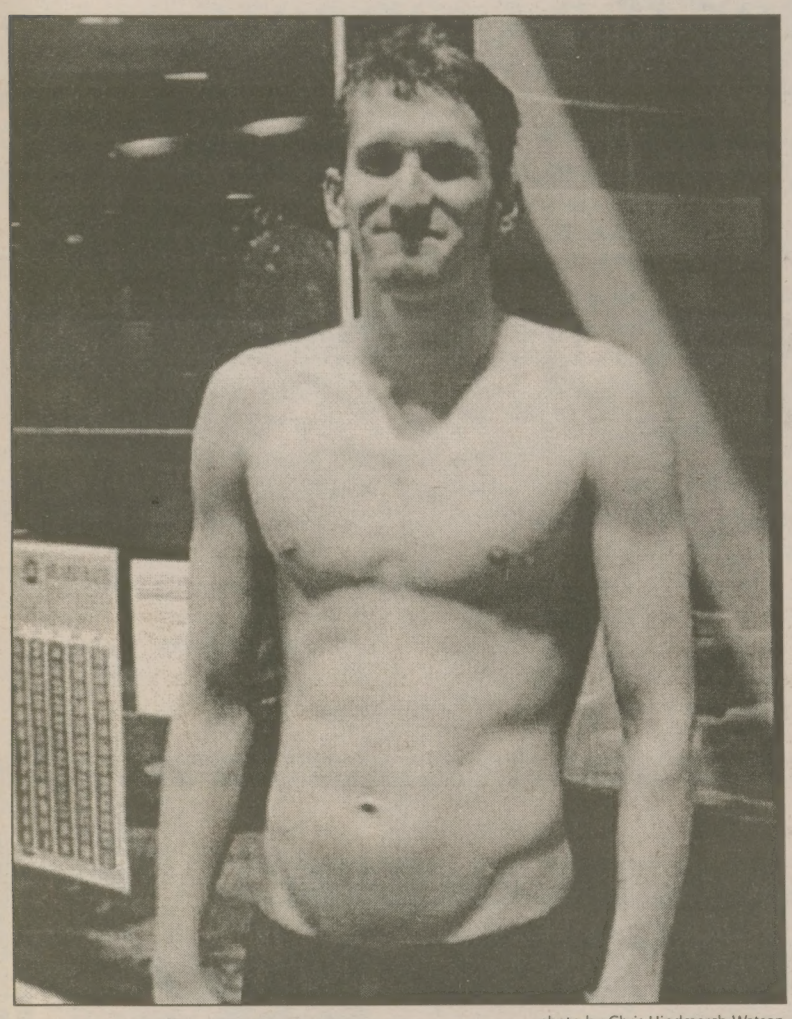
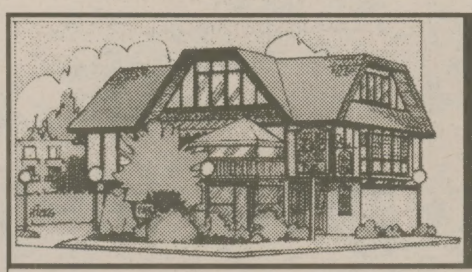


photo by Chris Hindmarch-Watson

"Alright. Let's try this next one with the shirt off." Dave Creel won the distance freestyle award last weekend by looking so damn hot.



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Kickin' it freestyle with the footbag phenomenon

by John Thompson

Is footbag really a sport?

I meet Judith Arney and Jeremy Kumbruch inside Camosun College's gym to find out. Both stretch their limbs as I quiz them – they've just spent their Sunday afternoon practicing their spins, stalls and ninja kicks in an activity known to most people as hacky sack – the task of keeping a crocheted bean-bag aloft with their feet.

But Arney and Kumbruch are both a far cry from the shaggy, bead-wearing hippies scattered throughout this province, kicking old Sipa-Sipas by dusty roadsides while they roll another spliff. In fact, they're both world-class athletes.

Outside of the circle, Arney, 23, is an English and environmental studies student at UVic. Kumbruch, 28, works as a bike mechanic in Victoria and will soon be a father.

Like most people, they began kicking in highschool. Arney remembers she wore Doc Martins, and Kumbruch says he started in cycling shoes.

But ask them how they spent the end of their summer in 2001, and they'll tell you they both placed at the World Footbag Championships in San Francisco. (The name "Hacky-Sack" is avoided by pros, since Wham-O, Inc. copyrighted the word.)

And when they became serious, they bought proper equipment.

"You don't play baseball without a glove," says Arney.

Both wear Adidas Rod Lavers – a discontinued court shoe they specially mail-order. They are flat-sided, plain, and when a few choice seams are sliced away near the toe-box, these shoes create the perfect playing surface for their footbag – which is small, four-paneled, and filled with sand, rather than beads.

To prevent snagging, they both wear tight shirts and short shorts.

Pro footbag comes in two forms: Freestyle and Net. Arney and Kumbruch compete in both.

Freestyle has come a long way since the California Games videogame. Modern players duck and weave their limbs around the footbag to catch, or "stall," the bag in different locations. Beginning with simple moves like orbiting one foot around the bag (Around the World), the game soon becomes a flurry of motion as footbaggers leap, spin and pendulum-swing from one move to the next.

Score is kept on the professional level based on a hierarchy of moves and combos.

Net is a singles or doubles game where a firmer football is lobbed and spiked across a Badminton court with axe-kicks and aerial moves. As Arney puts it: "It's badminton, but instead of rackets you use ninja kicks, and instead of a birdy, you have the best bag in the world."

This year, the championships will be held in Prague. Arney is still deciding whether she'll enter the World's, but if she does, she'll compete against European teens Kumbruch helped introduce to the sport on a European tour in the summer of 2000.

Kumbruch and a handful of other footbag enthusiasts visited three schools a day to demonstrate the basics of the game.

"But what grew out of it was pretty phenomenal," Kumbruch says.

Last year's champ came from the Czech Republic, and now a new generation of young footbaggers are quickly usurping the titles of old pros in North America.

"You see kids being introduced to it, and in a few years they're masters," he says.

In contrast, the footbag Renaissance in Victoria passed a few years ago. Market Square used to be the meeting place for pro footbaggers to strut their stuff every Saturday. Now, the game is prohibited there.

But none of this answers my initial question. Is footbag a sport?

"I think it is," answers Kumbruch. "I think for sure it is... dancing is a sport too. It's something that's physically exerting. It's something that's aerobic. It's something that your body thanks you, if you can do it well."

What it has over most sports, though, is a lack of borders.

"You can run down the hall, play in the kitchen," says Arney, recalling she lost one favourite footbag to a hot stove element.

If footbag is a sport, it is one dominated by men. Different reasons can be offered why a game that depends so much on grace and flexibility is dominated by guys, from the fact that hacking in heels isn't easy to the suggestion that joining a circle of sweaty, shirtless men could be intimidating for a sole female.

"It bothers me," says Arney, who makes a habit of dressing so she can kick on campus. "I'm not saying all women should do this. I'm just saying that I don't understand why [more women don't join in] after everything we've been through."

This could change. Arney has demonstrated footbag at local schools, and says it's heartening to see girls begin to kick at a young age.

On the professional level, she'd like to see the sport integrated between men and women. Currently, both compete in different categories. Arney finished sixth in 2001, but she says this doesn't reflect her skill as there was a shortage of women at the event.

While hockey and baseball have become lucrative careers for pros, Kumbruck says no footbagger is ever under the illusion their game will pay for itself.

"For footbag, it's about the camaraderie," he says. Arney adds that if she goes to the World's, she'll pay her way by tree-planting.

In the footbag community, the question of whether or not footbag is a sport is stretching the game in all directions. Some old-timers feel this new era of professionalism could rob the game of its fringe spirit, sense of community and even its soul.

For players like Arney and Kumbruck, a solution is retreat to the playground. They describe a four-square game where new rules are invented as you play and differences are settled by vote.

"You couldn't make a competition out of it, because it's so backyard," Arney says.

Which is exactly the point: often, when sports go professional the first casualty is fun.

"Both of us run from that," says Arney.

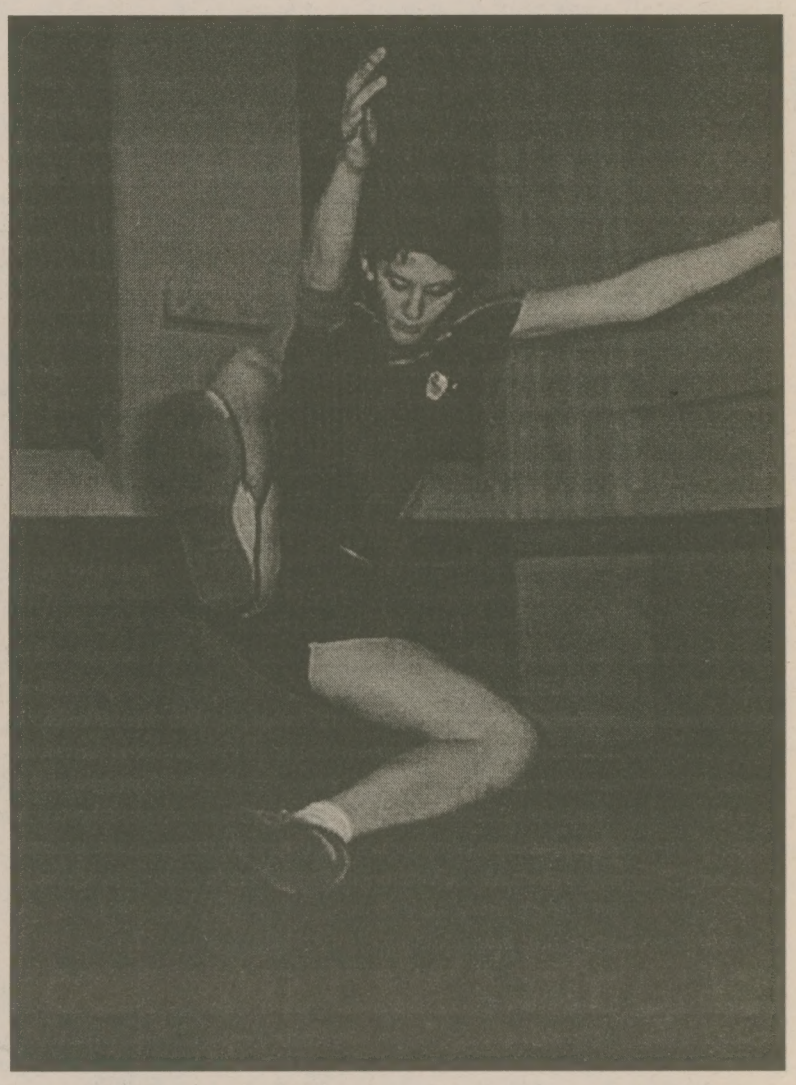

photo by John Thompson

This ninja was unmasked and expelled from the Ninja Club for footbagging after-hours.

Sports technology responsible for the Clap, etc.

by Simon Corman

In sports, where the difference between winning and losing is measured in hundredths and thousandths of seconds, the debate between technology and its effect on athleticism has never been greater than it is today.

Competitive swimming world records have fallen almost every week since the invention of an innovative bodysuit. The bodysuit utilizes a revolutionary new fabric known as "Fastskin" and was designed by marine biologists. It's believed that the suit keeps the swimmer's body higher in the water as well as decreasing the swimmer's drag by at least three per cent.

Speed skating also wrestled with the effects of changing technology, with the introduction of the Clap Skate at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano. The new skate featured a spring-loaded hinge, which allowed the blade of the skate to stay on the ice a fraction of a second longer.

This proved ingenious as Olympic records were broken in all ten races. Five new world records were also set during the games.

The Clap Skate was considered not only revolutionary, but also controversial because it required competitors to use a different skating technique.

According to Nick Paulenich, a spokesman for the U.S. Speed Skating association, the Clap Skate is no longer an issue, since most skaters have taken to using them.

Technology has also changed the television viewing experience of most major sporting events.

The Fox network gave dimwit T.V. viewers the short-lived blue-pass, red-shoot puck. ESPN was the first network to use the revolutionary "Sky Cam" technology, a camera elevated by wires over 100 feet above the playing field. The camera, controlled by a computer, shifts angles and records the action using every possible viewpoint.

Cameras are also produced in smaller sizes, to be placed in a wide assortment of new positions: beneath a sheet of ice and inside a referee hat.

Miniature microphones are placed inside athletic equipment to record conversations that the average viewer at home is unlikely to hear.

How will technology shape sport in the future? Will a tiny camera known as the "ball cam" be placed inside a puck, basketball or football?

Why not change the dimensions of the playing field itself to further accommodate faster athletes and more efficient equipment.

In Europe they've increased the length and width of the ice hockey surface to accommodate the speed and agility of the modern hockey player. North Americans have neglected to follow suit.

Safety advancements are sometimes neglected despite existing technology. The NHL had long been aware of the danger of flying pucks into the stands, but ignored the safety recommendation of a transparent protection net. It took the death of a 13-year old girl, hit by a puck at a Columbus Blue Jackets' hockey game, before the safety plan was finally implemented.

Technology with athletics is a good thing. As technology advances, sport will continue to advance with it, but with that comes the responsibility of handling the technology. The real question is whether or not the modern-day world is ready.

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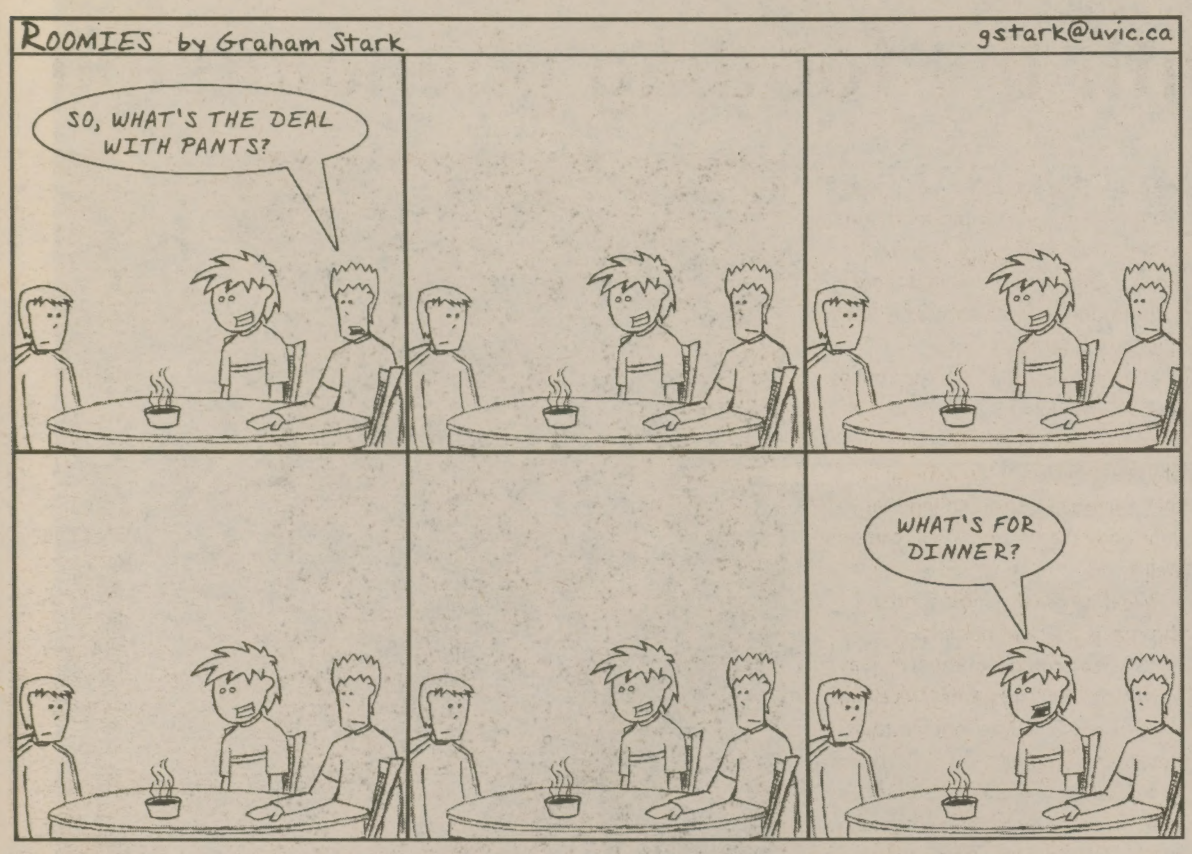

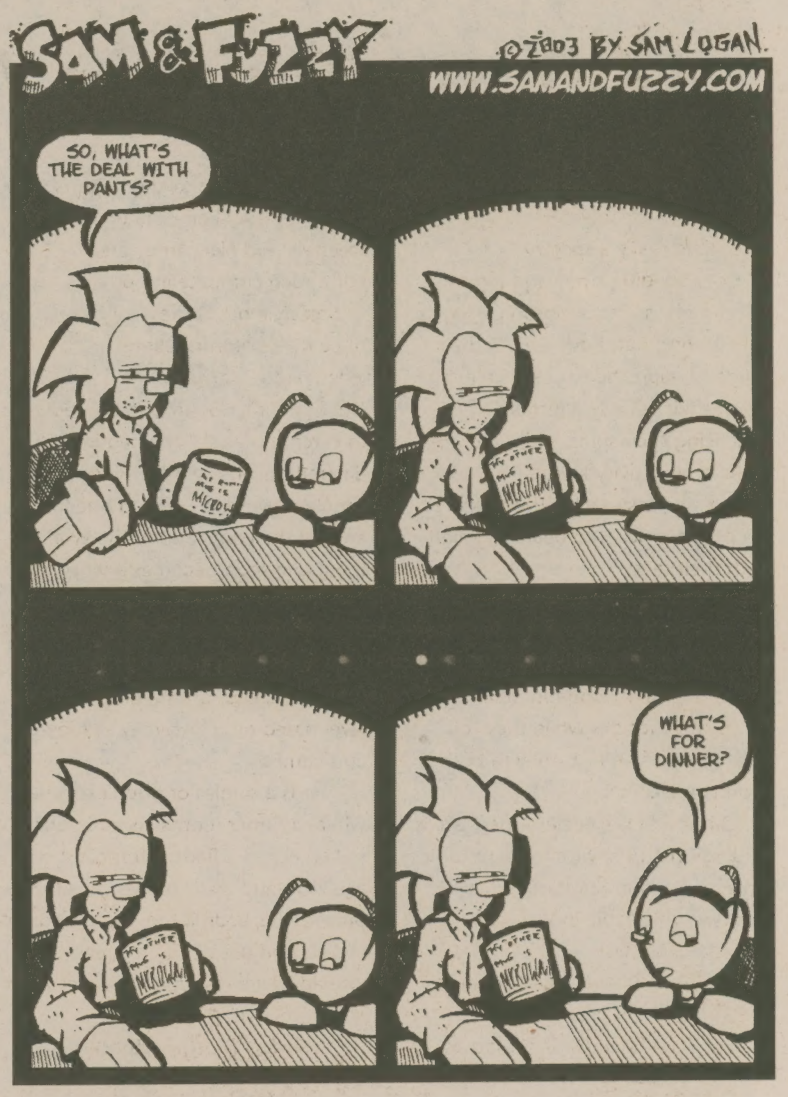

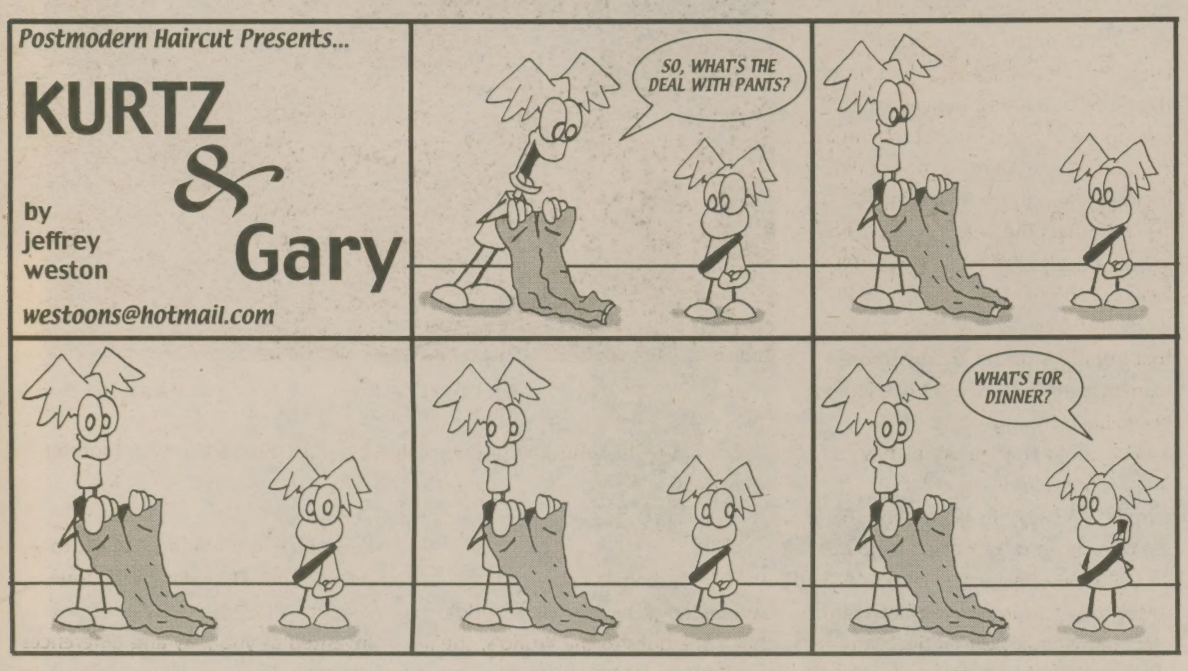

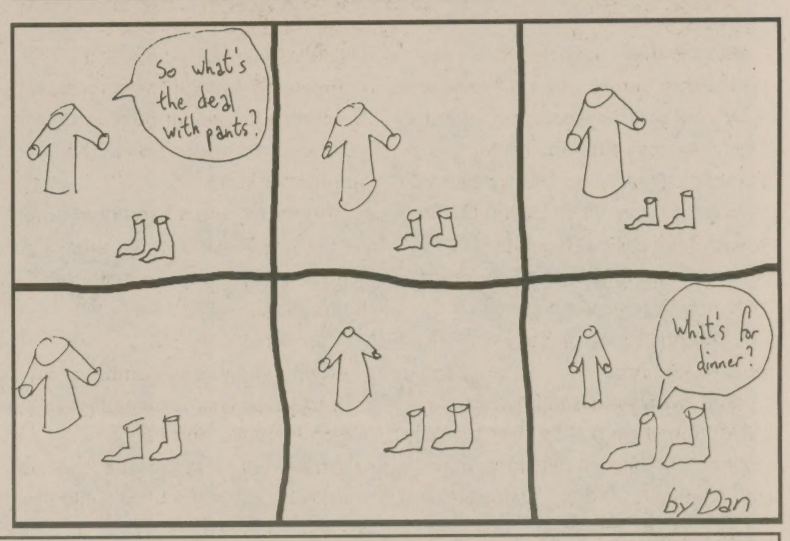

This weeks comic's page is in response to a comic which ran last issue (Feb. 6th, 2003), entitled "Can *The Martlet*'s Cartoons Survive?"

Billboards

on campus

Walking the length of Vancouver Island: A Slide Presentation by Peter Bickel Janes. Hosted by the Alpine Club of Canada – Van. Isle. section. Thurs., Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m. David Lam Auditorium (MAC A144). UVic $6 @ the door.

***Bioloco* biology undergraduate newsletter** accepting submissions, articles, events and any extraordinary biology news! Deadline: Feb. 28. Contact hhermane@uvic.ca. Volunteers and artists needed.

New bicycle lockers have been installed on campus, so now is your chance to wheel into the affordable luxury of your own bicycle locker: private, protected, reserved, weather-proof parking for your two-wheeled friend. Visit the SUB Infobooth or phone 721-8355.

off campus

Camosun College First Nations Community Studies presents Taiaiake Alfred, "Indigenous Resurgence: The Path of Truth and Struggle" at Camosun College Young Auditorium, Thurs. Feb. 20, 2003 from 11:00 to 1:00. Taiaiake Alfred is professor of indigenous governance and political science at UVic, and a Canada research chair. He is also the author of *Heeding the Voices of Our Ancestors* and *Peace, Power, Righteousness: an Indigenous Manifesto.*

The Armed With Understanding Lecture Series presents: "Resurgence of the Indigenous Warrior Spirit." Taiaikake Alfred, PhD – Mohawk writer, scholar and activist. Thursday, Feb. 13, 2003. 12:30 p.m., Cinecenta. ALL ARE WELCOME. Free of charge, discussion to follow.

Traditional Karate lessons now available to UVic students at discount rates. Train with a certified instructor and learn the ancient art of Shito-Ryu Karate. Our goals are to increase your physical abilities, your self-defense skills and make sure you have FUN doing it! Excellent facilities at Planet Fitness/Women Zone (Shelbourne and McKenzie). Call Kit: 886-5120.

announcements

Farmed and Dangerous!
On Wednesday, February 26, internationally recognized biologist, Alexandra Morton, will be in Victoria to give a slide presentation and talk on issues surrounding salmon farming. Her show is at St. Ann's Academy Auditorium (835 Humboldt Street – entrance off Blanshard St.), starting at 7:30 p.m. – admission by donation. This event is co-sponsored by the Georgia Strait Alliance and the Sierra Club Victoria Group. For information contact 381-8321 or 383-3336.

We need your help! The M.S. Club is looking for people to donate articles for its Silent Auction fundraiser on March 12, 2003. If you have anything to donate or know of businesses that would like to donate, please contact the M.S. Club at cammcrae@uvic.ca.

Would you like to hear Contemporary Aboriginal Blues music during Aboriginal Awareness Week, February 24 to 28? George Leach performs on Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 8:00 in the David Lam Auditorium. Tickets, $10.00.

A to B Taxi – Student Discounts! Best airport and ferry rates. Taxi@canada.com 216-3583.

Power Pussy and Wonder Cunt proudly present: *THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES.* Feb. 13, 14, 15. 7 p.m. David Lam Auditorium. Tickets $10 - 20 sliding scale on sale at the UVic Bookstore. All proceeds from the show will be donated to our three beneficiaries: The Kwagluith Urban Society, The Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre, and PEERS. V-DAY. UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS!

help wanted

Summer Camp Counselors on-campus interviews for premier camps in Massachusetts. Positions available for talented, energetic, and fun loving students as counselors in all team sports such as tennis & golf, waterfront and pool activities, and specialty activities including art, dance, theatre, gymnastics, newspaper, rocketry & radio. GREAT SALARIES, room, board, travel and U.S. summer work visa. June 21st – August 17th. Enjoy a great summer that promises to be unforgettable. For more information and to apply: MAH-KEE-NAC www.campmkn.com (Boys): 1-800-753-9118. DANBEE www.danbee.com (Girls): 1-800-392-3752. Interviewer will be on campus Monday, March 3rd – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Student Union Building (Michèle Pujol Room).

Student Works Painting needs a few outgoing part-time workers. Appr. 4 hrs/week for three months. Email: mramos@uvic.ca

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accommodations

Needed: One roommate to share house with two others. All appliances, hardwood floors, close to UVic/groceries/bus. One unfurnished bedroom available Feb. 1, 2003. $350 plus utilities per month. Shaw Internet, TV available. Bryn, 472-2796.

Heritage Fernwood House looking for third roommate. Queer-positive, pro-feminist environment complete with sauna! $425/month available March 1. 598-5918.

hey you

Hey you brothers who kept a close eye on me in summer and less so in the fall. Whatever your reasons you really helped me. Thanks. Sorry I was too afraid to talk.

Don't pretend like you're not thinking of making out with me every time you see me. Don't worry, I'm thinking it too, but I also like it when you hold my hand... what's a girl to do?

Chris. These past few weeks with you in the underwater biodome have been the best of my life. I was thinking if you weren't doing anything next weeked, you'd like to go for a surface date. Send a carrier dolphin. Love, Jimbo.

Billboard Rates

students & clubs	$2/issue
non-students	$2/line
businesses	$5.50/3 lines + $2/extra line
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